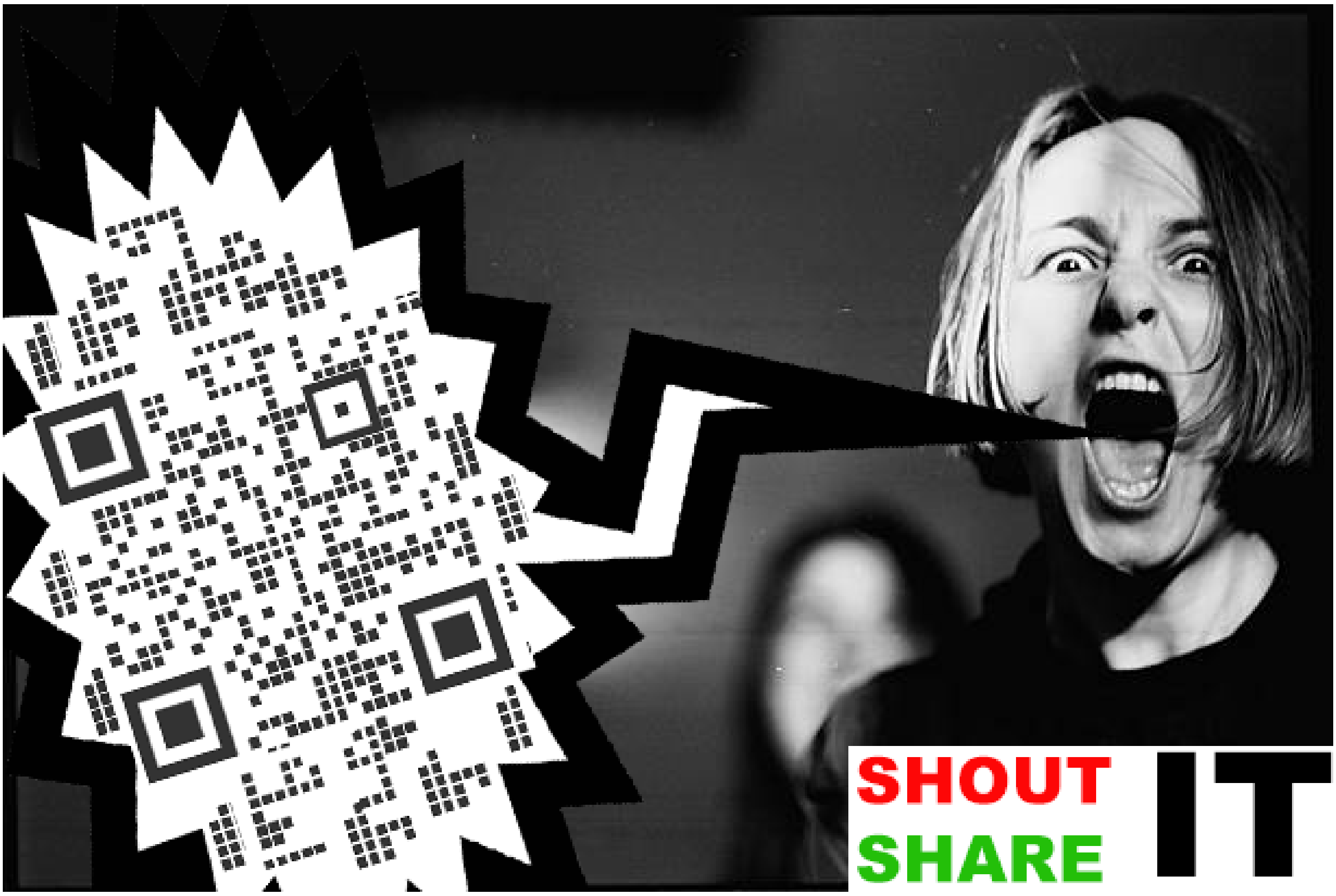
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BIRD NOTES.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

VOLUME IV.—SERIES III.

> *"By mutual confidence and mutual aid,*
> *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."*

EDITED BY
WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.,
AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.

ASHBOURNE.
J. H. HENSTOCK, "AVIAN PRESS,"
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Secretary's Report.

With the December issue of BIRD NOTES another volume of the Club's Journal is completed. I think the members will agree that the high standard which our Hon. Editor has reached in the past has been fully maintained during 1921.

Several letters have reached me asking when the coloured plates will be restarted and also if the articles could be more varied.

In the case of the former, coloured reproductions are still very expensive, and the committee do not consider they are entitled to run into too much expense unless the Illustration Fund is better supported. With regard to the latter I repeat my remarks of last year. If members would only try and send in copy to our Editor, who is always willing to receive it, accounts of their birds and what takes place in their aviaries, a greater variety of articles would appear and also greatly lessen the *burden* laid on Mr. Page of writing so many articles.

I must again ask some of our Members to take note that the yearly subscription is due January 1st each year, and not delay payment until the year has nearly gone. Some I am sorry to say are still in arrears, although I have made personal application for same to them. Let every member during the New Year resolve to do three things—pay subscriptions promptly, introduce a new member, and endeavour to write one article for their Club Journal.

If this is done there is no reason why BIRD NOTES should not only hold its own amongst Foreign Bird Magazines but attain such a position that it can proudly and fully say: We lead, let those who like follow.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS,

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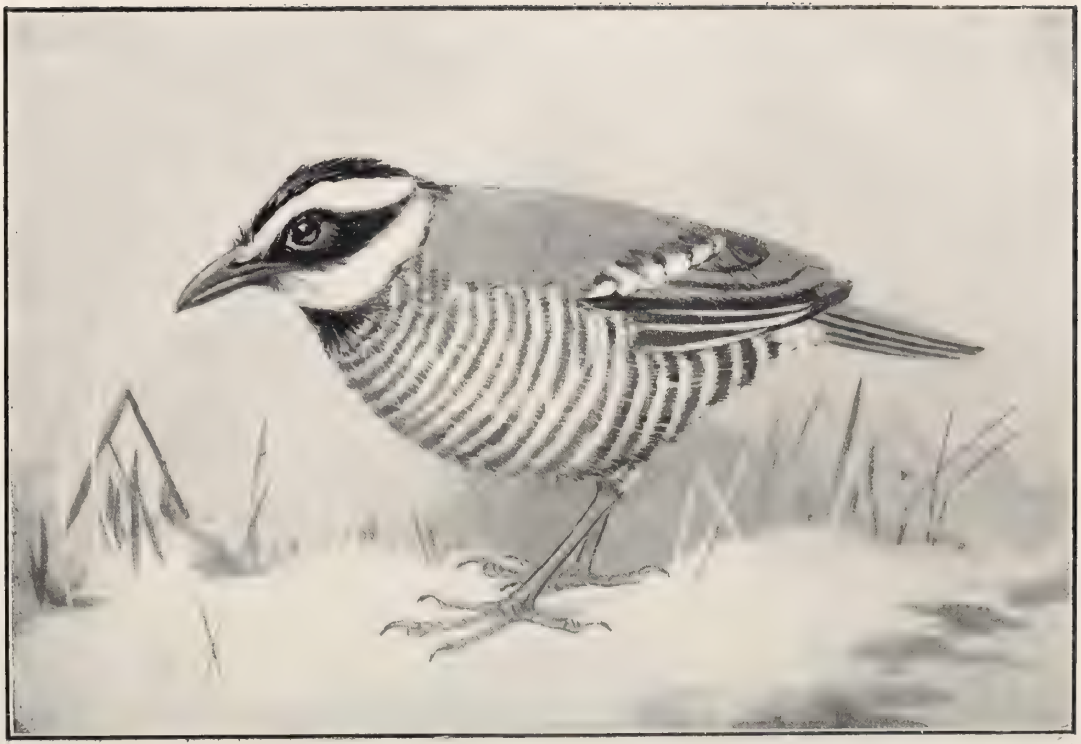
Errata.

page 17, for *Paroaria dominica* read *Paroaria cucullata.*
page 20, for *Depranoplectes* read *Drepanoplectes.*
page 53, for *Passer luteola* read *Passer luteus.*
page 134, for *Gubernatrix castata* read *Gubernatrix cristata.*
page 212, for *Spermestes nigricollis* read *Spermestes nigriceps.*
page 220. for *Pyromelana madagascariensis* read *Foudia madagascariensis.*
page 222. for *Astrr leucosomus* read *Astur leucosomus.*
page 223. for *Chalcopsittacus novae-hollandiae* read *Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae.*



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

From life by A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

Blue-tailed Pitta (*Eucichla cyanura.*)

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Pittas.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

I have not had a lengthy experience of this quaint family of birds, in fact I have only kept the Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*), and that only for a few months in a roomy cage.

These birds came to me (1916, I think) as part of a varied consignment from Mr. E. W. Harper; the bulk of them soon passed into other hands, but three, the leavings of the lot, I intended to retain; unfortunately then my present aviaries were not complete, and thus I had to keep them in a roomy cage; after a few months, on the advent of cold weather, they became drowsy and refused to take much exercise. I removed them to warmer quarters, but they remained lethargic, and in about six weeks all had "gone west." Their bodies were plump and their plumage in fine condition. I examined them and found all their organs in good order, but in each case there was slight cerebral hemorrhage. They were fed on insectile mixture, milk-sop, and live insects. During importation they had been fed on hard-boiled egg, grain, etc., and I continued this for a few weeks, but as I found them becoming overfat and sluggish I gradually weaned them on to the former dietary, and they improved for a time. Personally I attribute their loss to somewhat confined quarters—a cage 3ft. x 2ft. x 1ft. high—had they had space for moderate flight I am of the opinion they would have done well. I also formed the opinion that they need a minimum temperature of 50-60 degrees during the cold period of the English year. I also formed the opinion that they would not be safe company for birds smaller than, say, a bulbul.

With this preface, I think I cannot do better than quote from Newton's *Dictionary of Birds, in extenso*, as to their position in the bird-world, etc.

"PITTA, from the Telugu *Pitta*, meaning a small bird, latinised by Vieillot in 1816 as the name of a genus, and since adopted by English ornithologists as the general name for a group of birds, called by the French *Brèves*, and remarkable for their great beauty. For a long time the Pittas were commonly supposed to be allied to the *Turdidae*, and some English writers applied to them the names of "GROUND-THRUSHES," "Water-Thrushes," and "ANT-THRUSHES," to the first of which the group has some prescriptive right; but the second and third are misapplied since there is no evidence of their having aquatic habits, or of their preying especially upon ants. The fact that they had nothing to do with THRUSHES, but formed a separate Family, was generally admitted. In 1847 Prof. Cabanis placed them under the CLAMATORES, and their position was at last determined by Garrod, who, having obtained examples for dissection, proved (*Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1876, pp. 512, 513) that the *Pittidae* belonged to that section of Passerine Birds which he named MESOMYODI. This in itself was an unexpected determination, for all the other birds, as then known, inhabit the New World, where no Pittas occur. But it is borne out by, and may even serve to explain, the sporadic distribution of the latter, which seems to indicate them to be the survivors of a somewhat ancient and lower order of *Passeres*. Indeed except in some theory of this kind the distribution of the Pittas is inexplicable. They form a very homogeneous Family, most of the members bearing an unmistakable resemblance to each other—though the species inhabit countries so far apart as Angola and China, India and Australia; and, to judge from the little that has been recorded, they are all of terrestrial habit, while their power of flight, owing to their short wings, is feeble. In 1888 Mr Sclater (B.M. Cat. xiv., pp. 411-449) recognised 4 genera. They are *Anthocincla* with a single species from Tenasserim, remarkable for the tuft of elongated feathers on each side of its nape: *Pitta* with 43 species (to which by now more than one has been added) of wide distribution; *Eucichla* with 5 species, all from the Indo Malay countries; and "*Melampitta*" (Schlegal), with a single species from New Guinea, which after all may not belong to the Family. Most of the true Pittas are from the Malay archipelago, between the eastern and western divisions of which they are pretty equally divided; and, in Mr. Wallace's opinion, they attain their maximum of beauty and variety in Borneo and Sumatra, from the latter of which islands comes the species *Pitta elegans*. Few birds can vie with the Pittas in brightly-contrasted colouration. Deep velvety black, pure white, and intensely vivid scarlet, turquoise-blue, and beryl-green—mostly occupying a considerable extent of surface—are found in a great many of the species,—to say nothing of other composite or intermediate hues; and, though in some a modification of these tints is observable, there is scarcely a trace of any blending of shade, each patch of colour standing out distinctly. This is, perhaps, the more remarkable as the feathers have hardly any lustre to heighten the effect produced, and in some species the brightest colours are exhibited by the lower parts of the body. Pittas vary in size from that of a

Jay to that of a Lark, and generally have a strong bill, a thick-set form, which is mounted on rather high legs with scutellated "tarsi," and a very short tail. In many of the forms there is little or no external difference in the sexes."

Our frontispiece, drawn by Mrs. A. M. Cook (presented to the Club) from a living specimen at the London Zoo, illustrates one of the rarer species of the genus *Eucichla*, which has a longer tail than most (if not all) species of the genus Pitta.

In the Indian Pitta (*P. brachyura*), the tail almost passes unnoticed at a casual glance, and, while in every sense complete, it is very short indeed.

I will give a description of the Indian Pitta, as this is the species I have kept and am most acquainted with.

It is called by the natives *Naurang* (nine colours) on account of its many-hued garment.

The crown is yellow washed with orange, and sharply divided in the centre by a broad band of black running from the beak to the nape, where it is met by a broader black band which passes below the eye; the eyebrow is white; the mantle and back are bluish-green; upper tail-coverts pale blue; wing and tail feathers black tipped with blue; bands of pale blue and white cross the wing, the latter only being visible when the wings are expanded; chin and throat white; breast opaque orange-yellow; under tail-coverts crimson.

Mr. Douglas Dewar, in *Glimpses of Indian Birds*, aptly describes this species—" a rainbow in himself, displaying as he does red, yellow, grey, and various shades of blue and green, to say nothing of black and white."

Mr. Dewar also so ably tells of its habits and deportment in a state of nature in *Jungle Folk*, that I am quoting him *in entenso*.

" Some Indian birds are adepts at self-advertisement. To use an expressive vulgarism, they continually " hit you in the eye;" they obtrude themselves upon you in season and out of season. Others are so retiring that you may live among them for years without observing them. ,To this class, the class that hide their light under a bushel, the beautiful Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) belongs. There is at least one favoured compound in Madras where a pitta, or possibly a pair of them, spends the cool-weather season. Pittas proclaim their presence by uttering at dawn their cheery notes, which have been described as an attempt to whistle in a moderately high key, the words " quite clear." If, on hearing this call, you are sufficiently energetic to go out of doors, you will probably see on the ground a bluish bird, about the size of a quail, but before you have had time to examine it properly it will have taken to its wings and disappeared into the hedge. Those who are not so fortunate as to have pittas on the premises may be tolerably certain of seeing a specimen by visiting the well-wooded plot of land bordered on the west by the canal and on the south by the Adyar River."

"This bird is about seven inches in length. Thus it does not measure much more than a sparrow, but it is considerably larger, for the tail is very short, barely one inch and a half in length. . . . . . the Indians in some parts call it the naurang—the nine colours. The bird may truly be said to be arrayed in a coat of many colours. Unfortunately such a garment is apt to to lead to trouble. Even as the coat of many colours brought tribulation upon Joseph of old, so does the much-coveted, multi-hued plumage of the pitta frequently bring death to its possessor.'

"Apart from the colouring, it is impossible to confound the pitta with any other bird. Its long legs and its apology for a tail recall the Sandpiper, but there is nothing else snippet-like about it. The classification of the bird has puzzled many a wise head. It has been variously called the Madras Jay, the Bengal Quail, the Short-tailed Pye, the Ant-thrush, the Painted Thrush and the Ground Thrush. But it is not a jay, neither is it a quail, nor a thrush, nor a tail-less pye. It is a bird made on a special model. It belongs to a peculiar family, to a branch of the great order ot perching birds, which differs from all other clans in some important anatomical details. Into these we will not go, for they belong to morphology, the science which concerns itself chiefly with the dry bones of zoology, with the lifeless aspect of the science of life."

"The Indian pitta is a bird which likes warmth, but not heat, so that it refuses to live in the Punjab, where the climate is one of extremes—a spell of cold, then a headlong rush into a period of intense heat, followed by an equally sudden return to a low temperature. The pitta seems to occur in all parts of Eastern, Central, and Southern India, undergoing local migration to the South in the autumn and back again in the spring. In places where the climate is never very hot or very cold, as, for example, Madras and the hills in Ceylon, some individuals seem to remain throughout the year. I have seen pittas in Madras at all seasons, and I know of no better testimonial to the excellence of the climate of that city. Jerdon writes of the pitta: 'In the Carnatic it chiefly occurs in the beginning of the hot weather, when the land-winds first begin to blow with violence from the west, and the birds in many instances appear to have been blown, by the strong wind, from the Eastern Ghauts, for, being birds of feeble flight, they are unable to contend against the strength of the wind. At this time they take refuge in huts, outhouses, or any building that will afford them shelter. The first bird I saw of this kind had taken shelter in the General Hospital at Madras; and subsequently at Nellore I obtained many alive under the same circumstances.' Other observers have had similar experiences. Bligh, for instance, states that in Ceylon pittas are frequently caught in bungalows on coffee estates on cold and stormy days.'

"It is strange that so retiring a bird as the pitta should find its way with such frequency into inhabited houses. Jerdon's explanation is its 'feeble flight,' but I doubt whether he is correct in calling the pitta a bird of feeble flight; it can travel very fast, for short distances at any rate. It seems that the pitta dislikes cold and wind, and therefore naturally seeks any shelter that presents itself. Not being a garden bird, it is unaware that the bungalow, which offers such tempting cover, is the abode of human beings. Possibly another reason why the pitta so frequently enters bungalows is to avoid the crows. The *corvi* are out-and-out Tories. They strongly resent innovation *qua* innovation. Any addition to the local fauna is distasteful to them. They object to the foreigner quite as strongly as do (perhaps I should say 'did') the Chinese. It is for this reason that they mob every strange bird that shows its face. Now, they seldom come across the creatures of the night or the denizens of the thick undergrowth; consequently, when such venture forth into the light of day the crows forthwith attack them."

"The Pitta feeds chiefly on beetles, termites, ants, and other creeping things, which it seeks out among fallen leaves, after the manner of the 'seven sisters.' The pitta is quick on its feet, and is abse to run and hop with equal ease. It thrives in captivity. It is an excellent pet, provided it is not kept with smaller birds. It regards these as so much fresh meat especially provided for it."

"The nest of the pitta is described as a globular structure fully nine inches in horizontal diameter and six inches high. Twigs, roots and dried leaves are the building materials utilised. The eggs are exceedingly beautiful. The ground colour, writes Hume, is China white, sometimes faintly tinged with pink, sometimes creamy; and the eggs are speckled and spotted with deep maroon, dark purple, and brownish purple as primary markings, and pale inky purple as secondary ones, Occasionally, instead of spots, the markings take the form of fine hair-like lines."

These notes are mainly a compilation, but are more likely to be useful than the platitudes with which we too often dilate upon a species we are indifferently acquainted with. True, we are often met with the criticism "it is avicultural experience we mostly want." But it is equally true that the aviculturist who meets with the most continuous success is the one who takes the trouble to acquaint himself with the life-histories of the species he confines in his aviaries, and the parallel might be carried much further—therefore this is my excuse, if any be needed.

The term "feeble flight," used by Prof. Newton, possibly quoting Jerdon, must not be taken too literally, for Mr. Phillips found one he kept for some months in his largest aviary to be a strong flier, and keeping to the tops of the trees and branches in the aviary; nevertheless it is a terrestrial species, and feeds entirely upon the ground.

I hope, in the not distant future, there may be an opportunity for testing and studying them more fully in our aviaries.

My slight experience of them has but whetted my appetite for more.

Waders.

By W. Shore Baily.

What has become of our east coast wildfowlers?

At this time of the year, or a little earlier, they used to send regular consignments of our commoner shore-birds to the London bird dealers. I only remember having seen one small lot offered there for several years now.

The late cold spell emphasises what charming birds they are; especially where a small pond or stream can be enclosed in their aviary. They are the only birds that look absolutely happy in really bitter weather, and they seem to be much more active under these adverse (?) conditions than they are in the heat of summer.

My favourites are the Knots (*Tringa canuta*), but the Redshanks (*Totanus calidris*) and Dunlin (*Tringa alpina*) are almost as attractive. The rarer Sandpipers, such as the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), Little Stint (*T. minuta*), Turnstone (*Strepsilas interpres*) and Curlew-Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*) are rarely obtainable, although at times there must be numbers of them on the mud-flats, and they should be no more difficult to net than the commoner species.

The Oyster Catcher (*Hematopus ostralegus*) and Ringed Plover (*Aegialitis hiaticola*) are very common on some parts of our coasts, and it would not be difficult to get their young ones; after reading Mr. Percival's account of the rearing of young Plovers from the egg in a recent issue of B.N., I shall be rather tempted to try my hand with them next spring, as I know where a number of these birds nest. I fancy, however, that they do not do so well in captivity as the other kinds.

I feed my Waders as follows: First thing in the morning on bread and milk, of which they are very fond; at mid-day they get melox, and at night millet. I leave them unpinioned, as

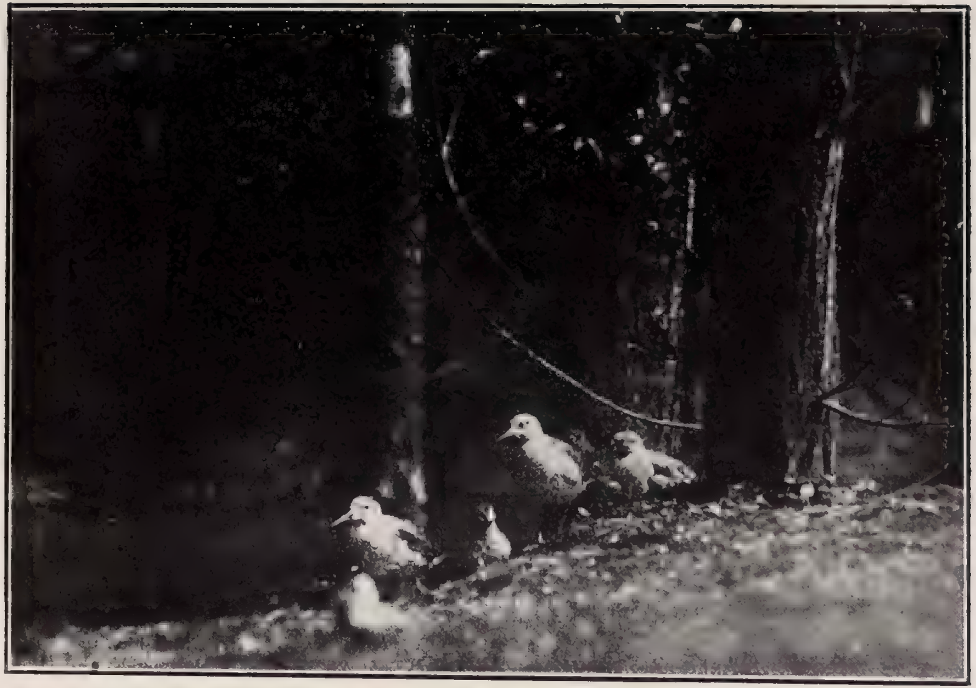


Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Knot, Redshank, and Dunlin.

their aviary is about 200 feet in length, and I like to see them flying from end to end. I get a few casualties through individuals occasionally knocking their heads against the wire roof, but after a time they learn by experience and avoid doing this. They are very tame, and could, if one had the time, soon be taught to feed from the hand.

What I like especially about them is that they are always *on view*. There is no skulking as there is with so many of the Rails and Waterhens. My White-breasted Waterhens, for instance, in summer, when the cover in their aviary is dense, are sometimes not seen for weeks at a time, and, then, with these and the foreign waders there is much more risk of loss in bad weather. Quite recently I have had some very annoying losses, due to the extreme cold, most of the rare birds I have written about in B.N. of late having now " gone west," although they were carefully shut up in sheds at night. And then in the case of these common birds, they can usually be procured in such numbers as to practically ensure one having a true pair or two, and I see no reason why any of the birds I have mentioned should not go to nest in captivity, and even if their young were not fully reared it would be no small triumph to be able to photo a clutch of Knots' eggs for instance. The Knot, although a very common bird upon the east coast, does not seem to be quite so numerous on the west side. During a five years' residence in the Isle of Man I only met with one or two specimens. I have, however, seen fairly big flocks during the spring migration in the Bristol Channel.

The same remarks apply to the Sanderlings and Curlew-Sandpipers, and these were usually only met with in pairs on migration in the Isle of Man.

I met with very large flocks of both these last named varieties every year whilst I was in California, but strange to say I never saw the Knot, although I believe it has been found as far south as Patagonia. All three species seem to have a world-wide range. In California the Curlew-Sandpiper frequented the shores of the inland lakes in immense numbers, both in the late spring and the early autumn, and were largely shot for food, whilst the Sanderling were found in similar numbers on the immense sandy beaches of the Pacific. Both birds figured on the *menus* of the restaurants as " Snipe."

Pintail Nonpareil *(Erythrura prasina).*

By R. Suggitt.

I purchased two pairs of young Pintails in immature plumage in the summer of 1905; three of them died within a week, but the fourth, a male, assumed adult plumage and lived in the outdoor aviary until January 1st, 1906, when, though in apparently good health the previous day, I found him dead.

Paddy rice (i.e., rice in the husk) is their principal food in a wild state, and this is absolutely necessary to their well being in captivity—at any rate until they have developed a taste for millet and canary—and to their being deprived of the paddy I attribute the untimely deaths of the three birds. Luer, the London bird dealer, told me that he loses a smaller percentage of Pintail Nonpareils than any other birds which he imports. *He feeds entirely on paddy rice.*

On April 10th, 1908, I received two more pairs of young birds in their nest feathers; one pair I passed to Mr. Sutcliffe. These two pairs arrived in splendid condition, and my birds up to the present time (April 15th) are still in perfect health. They eat very little of anything except paddy rice.

Adult Male. Upper parts sage-green; upper tail-coverts vermilion; two centre tail-feathers dull crimson, the shafts projecting beyond the other tail-feathers, which are brown; flights dark; face and throat cobalt-blue; centre of breast rosy-scarlet; remainder of underparts golden-brown; beak black; feet flesh-colour; iris brown.

The female is similar but duller and lacks the blue face and red breast.

Young resemble the adult female.

April 22nd, 1908. I put the Pintails into the indoor flight the other day, but the female was short of some feathers in one of her wings, so I caged her again. The male seems rather ill to-day.

May 1st, 1908. Both Pintails are in splendid health, so I turned the cock into the outdoor aviary; the wing feathers of the hen are not yet sufficiently grown to permit her to fly, so she is still caged.

May 5th. Although the male has only just begun to get his adult plumage, he has been singing his weak, but shrill, little song to-day.

May 15th. The caged hen is now eating a fair quantity of canary seed and, perhaps, a little less paddy rice.

May 24th. Put the hen outside to-day.

June 10th, 1908. The pintails are rather shy, and I do not see them often. The male seems changing to adult plumage fairly quickly now.

August 13th, 1908. The male has not made the slightest progress with his adult plumage since June 10th. Both are healthy and lively.

August 31st. The male appears to be moulting; he is not yet in adult plumage.

September 22nd, 1908. The male has almost completed his moult and is now in full adult plumage.

September 29th. The hen has been very mopy lately, and to-day she allowed me to get so near to her that I could see that the ends of her mandibles have grown much beyond their proper length, and are crossed like the mandibles of the Crossbill; her upper mandible is also much split. She will no doubt eventually die as she will not be able to husk her seed properly. I believe this abnormal growth of the beak is common in captive birds of this species.

October 12th, 1908. The hen has been getting weaker and more reluctant to leave the seed dish day by day so I have caged her and trimmed her beak up a little. The male is in splendid condition and sings all day. The hens do not appear to have such strong constitutions as the cocks.

October 15th. I think the hen is improving a little.

October 17th. The hen died this morning.

November 1st, 1908. Put the cock into the birdroom flight for the winter.

April 11th, 1909. Put the cock outside to-day; he is in splendid condition.

May 24th, 1909. The Pintail Nonpareil goes to rest earlier than any other bird in the aviary; he will take up his perch for the night, even when the sun is shining brightly. He is in full moult and almost naked about the head.

June 19th. He appears to be through the moult, and is singing again.

July 12th, 1909. He appears anxious to go to nest. I saw him carrying material about to-day and singing.

September 6th, 1909. The Pintail is in full moult; he is quite healthy and I think he will come through the ordeal safely.

September 30th. The Pintail has completed his moult beautifully.

October 4th, 1909. Yesterday and the day before the Pintail looked very ill—simply a ball of feathers. I expected to find him dead this morning, but to my surprise he was quite smart and lively and looked his old self again.

December 13th, 1909. The Pintail is still out of doors, and we have had some very hard frosts and bad weather. He is quite smart and lively, and I think that when once thoroughly acclimatised these birds are as hardy as most foreign finches.

January 21st, 1910. Found the Pintail dead this morning. He was in the best of health yesterday. He has been in our possession 21 months—a record for this species with us.

The foregoing is a verbatim extract from my note book Impressions faithfully made are of great assistance at other times, although some may be erroneous.

The last-mentioned bird moulted in mid-June, and again in September; probably the first moult was incomplete. At what period do they usually change their feathers?

I have noticed quite a number of young ones in a consignment in London with malformations of the beak. What is the cause?

Many of our members have kept these birds. It is often the case that failures are of more assistance to us than our successes, and I hope some of our members will give us their views on this and other birds. We have a lot to learn, and I appeal to fellow members not to wait until they have some brilliant success to chronicle before giving us their experiences.

Our Editor asks us to use the Correspondence Columns. Why not do so?

[Our member, Mr. Grossmith, has kept this species very successfully on soaked paddy rice—they had access to other seeds, of which they partook to some extent.—Ed.]

My New Aviary and its Inmates.

By Chas. Cleeburg, Junior.

This aviary was built in 1918.

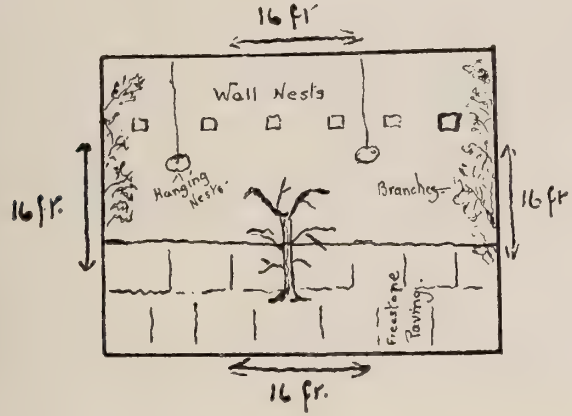
The locality is Dumfries.

The whole flight is of iron structure, well bolted together, and covered with ½ inch wire netting painted green. The netting is sunk underground three feet, which affords good protection against rats; etc.

It is well planted with various shrubs, including laurel, privet (golden and green), etc.

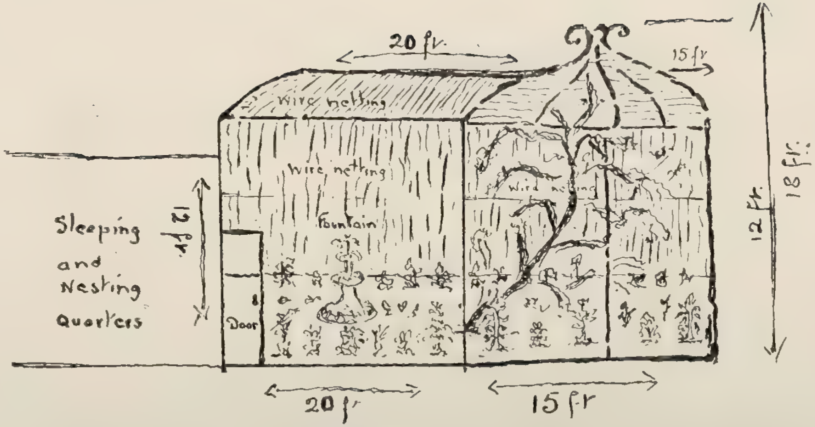
The tree under the dome is a damson, which gives a very rustic effect. This tree is a very old one, and the aviary flight, which I built over it, gave a very natural effect to the whole structure; a very desirable effect, and one that should be kept in view when one is building an aviary.

On the front of the sleeping quarters honeysuckle and rambler roses adorn the wall. Over the rustic porch covering the doorway of shelter, which separates the sleeping-quarters from the flight, I have also rambler roses of two different colours.



Inside measurements.

Sleeping and Nesting House, which was formerly an old Stable.


20 ft.
15 ft
Wire netting
Wire netting
Wire netting
Fountain
Door
Sleeping
and
Nesting
Quarters
12 ft.
12 ft.
18 ft.
20 ft
15 ft

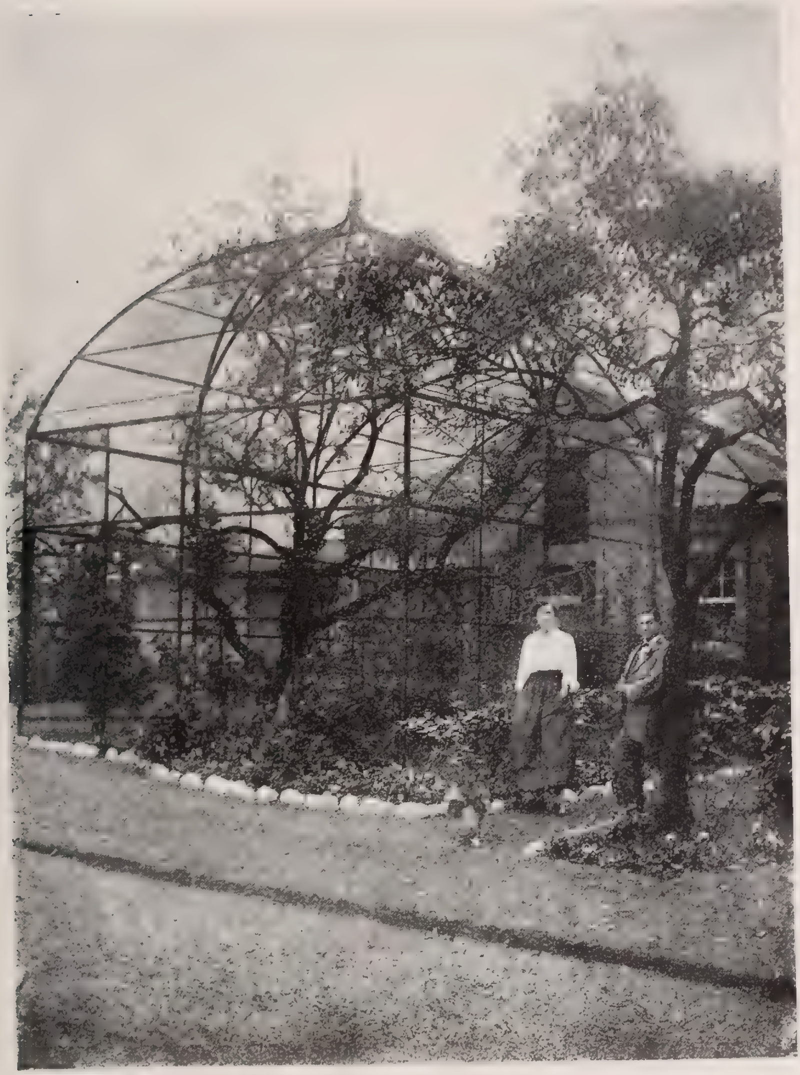
Outside Flight :—

Iron Framework.
½in. Wire Netting.
Erected and Wired by myself.

Water Fountain :—

Pipe line brought inside of flight by plumber.
Fountain then built by myself from granite chips and cement

Tree inside Dome is an old Damson tree, the Dome being built over it.



Mr Chas. Cleeburg's Aviary.

The fountain, placed in the centre of the flight, is five feet high, and a great source of delight to the birds. The base of the fountain is six feet in diameter, the second basin thirty inches, and the top one eighteen inches in diameter. I had a stop-cock fitted so that the water can be turned off during frosty weather, if desired.

Round about the aviary on the outside I formed a foot-walk, from which you can see nests in the shrubs and take observations generally, as this saves disturbing sitting birds during the nesting season. To the outside of the foot-walk, round the aviary on two sides, I planted fruit trees, rambler roses, and shrubs of various kinds, which provides a good background, and altogether gives a very pleasing aspect to the whole.

Sleeping quarters (shelter): The sleeping quarters are built of brick and rough cast, and are very cosy places. A good-sized window in the front of the building provides plenty of light.

At present I house about eighty birds, which include:

Saffron Finches
Whydahs
Weavers (various varieties)
Java Sparrows (grey and white)
Indigo Buntings
Lavender Finches
Grey Singing-Finches
Ribbon Fnches
Cardinals
Goldfinches
Grey Linnets
Roller Canaries
Zebra Finches
Chaffinches
Redpolls, etc.

These birds have all lived in harmony together, and the following have nested and reared young:

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). Only one nest and reared three young.

Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*). Bred freely and reared quite a lot of young birds.

Ribbon Finches (*Amadina fasciata*). Were a new addition this year; nested twice and brought out seven young.

Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*). Had two nests of eggs which were infertile.

Weavers. They had quite a busy season and built no end of unfinished nests in the shrubs and damson tree. Much to my regret, however, they got no further.

Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*). They had two nests each with five young, but all of them died.

Roller Canaries. Bred very freely, nested in the shrubs, and reared a good number of young. One nest, from which five young birds flew, was built in a shrub in the outside flight in the month of February 1919; these all did well and grew into fine strong birds.

The other species made no attempt at nesting whatever.

Very few of the older birds have died with me. They live out of doors all winter, and I use no artificial heat of any kind. Last week, during the hard frost, the birds were perched upon the edge of the fountain looking for water, which was solid ice in the basins. All the birds seem as hard as nails.

In the spring of next year it is my intention to add several new and rarer species to my collection.

In conclusion I may add that my garden it about one acre in extent, so that I have plenty of scope for my hobby, should I wish at any time to add an addition to my aviary.

◆

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The Aviaries and Birds at Ewhurst Park: These aviaries have already been illustrated and described by the writer in this Journal.

By invitation I went to Ewhurst Park on January 6th, to look once more over them and their contents. 'Tis an awkward cross-country journey from Lingfield to Basingstoke, occupying much time, so the pleasure of seeing the birds had to be deferred till after lunch. Needless to say the luncheon talk was purely avicultural.

Our first visit was to the bird-room upstairs, in which I noticed excellent specimens of Gold-fronted and Hardwick's Fruitsuckers (*Chloropsis aurifrons*, and *hardwicki*). They were doing well on the usual *menu* of fruit, insectile mixture, milk-sop and mealworms.

We next went to the outside bird-house, which has no flight attached, but has large glass doors, shutting on to wire-netting, which can be opened when the house has summer occupants. It is heated by a service of hot-water pipes along the back. I did not take measurements, but I should think it was approximately 80ft. long, 8ft. wide, with a height of 12ft. at the front, rising to at least 15ft. at the back; it is a lean-to structure with a southern aspect.

It had not many occupants, as the bulk of the birds are left in the outdoor aviaries all the year round.

The first bird to attract my attention was a Tanager of uncertain species, not yet being in full adult colour. Last autumn the Duchess of Wellington bought a pair of birds, advertised and sold as Archbishop Tanagers; one of these, a gorgeous specimen, died in early November, I think. The body was sent to me and I found extensive cerebral hemorrhage. I saw at once it was not an Archbishop Tanager, but a really fine specimen of *Euphonia pectoralis*, the uncommon Pectoral Tanager. The other one is the bird referred to above, and while I cannot speak with certainty, as I did not handle it, I do not think it is any species of *Euphonia*, but probably will prove to be a male Striated Tanager, also a very uncommon species on the bird-market.

The next birds I noted were a pair and three young Giant Whydahs (*Chocra procne*). All were in eclipse plumage, and five finer birds I never saw. The young birds were reared in 1919 and *have not as yet donned full adult colouration;* apparently this species does not come into colour till the second year. Last year young birds were hatched out but not fully reared.

Other birds were present, but I failed to note their species.

The next aviary was all glass and wire; it contained only a few canaries, but these were in the best of health and in fine plumage. This was a matter of surprise to me, as such an aviary must feel the full effects of every caprice of the almost daily varying English weather. Another cause of surprise was, the large panes of *clear* glass were unprotected by wire netting, and there had been no fatalities or injuries from the birds bashing against same!

The next aviaries visited were a series of six, each approximately 60ft. long, 6ft. wide and 8ft. high. The shelters were excellent, with a space of covered flight in front of each. For my own use I should prefer them half as wide again. These aviaries have been quite successful, and many species have bred therein, though, as in many other aviaries, results were very poor last year. The exposed corners of extreme end of flights were protected by glass lights fastened outside the netting.

The first one contained a pair of Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*). This species is not by any means a free breeder. This pair did not succeed in rearing any young last year, but in 1919 two broods were successfully reared to fend for themselves. The old pair look in the pink of condition, the male already showing signs of his azure summer garment. A pair of Bullfinches and other British Finches were also in the aviary.

The next division contained a pair of Nonpareil Buntings (*C. ciris*), the male being a grand colour and a perfect specimen of this lovely species. The female was equally good, but looked quite plainly dressed in comparison with the gorgeous many-coloured garment of the male. Here was illustrated the antagonism between these two species (*C. cyanea* and *ciris*), it having been necessary to cover the wire-netting division between the two flights with canvas, to prevent them doing each other serious damage, and even now where, in one or two places, the canvas is about one inch short of reaching the top, they fight through this narrow space, and these narrow gaps will have to be covered up.

One or two divisions were empty, but another good pair of Indigo Buntings (this being a favourite species) occupied another division, and in the last were pairs of several species of British finches, Canaries and their hybrids. In this division

Bullfinches, Goldfinches, etc., have hatched out, but no young have been fully reared. Canaries and their hybrids have been successfully reared in this division.

This series of aviaries is extremely well arranged; there is a good service passage at the back of the shelters, also complete inter-communication between the respective divisions.

The best was reserved to the last, viz: the Large Aviary — it is a huge one, lofty and well arranged. It has been greatly improved. Evergreens have been planted, so that there is now good winter cover. Also more shelter has been provided by screening the four corners with wood and canvas, which the birds were making good use of at the time of my visit. The light was failing by this time, and all the birds were not noted, but I saw the following, all in perfect health and plumage:

1 pair Pretrie's Tanagers (*Spindalis pretriei*). Strange to say that, though this species is also known as the Banana Bird, owing to its liking for that fruit, they have shown no taste for fruit of any kind, subsisting on insectile mixture, milk-sop, insects, and seed. They are left out of doors all the year round, and were in perfect condition.

1 pair Pope Cardinals (*Paroaria dominica*).
Sundry Weavers and Serins, Goldfinches, Bullfinches.
1 pair Mandarin Ducks (*Æx galericulata*).
1 pair Japanese Teal (*Nettion formosum*).
1 ♀ Stanley Crane (*Anthropoides paradisea*).
1 pair Senegal Doves (*Turtur senegalensis*).
White-cheeked Bulbuls, etc.

Though the Mandarin Ducks and Japanese Teal are true pairs and have been in the aviary several years, they have not up to the prsent laid an egg. The Stanley Crane on the other hand has laid several.

Goldfinches have bred freely in this aviary, as have many *Ploceine* finches.

It is in this aviary that the Giant Whydah has nested so freely. Though the aviary is a very natural one, containing a large number of fruit trees, a rock garden, a fair number of conifers, and numerous deciduous trees and bushes, it has no bamboo bog, or any piece of marshy ground; but is simply a very fine specimen of the aviculturist's wilderness aviary. Since the Giant Whydahs (*Choera procne*) first commenced breeding they have hatched out young each year, rearing broods in 1918 and 19 but failing to fully rear in 1920. The Grey Singingfinch (*Serinus cinerea*) has also nested and reared young freely in this aviary.

Rain and the fading light forced us indoors, where tea and a lengthy talk brought a most pleasant and interesting visit to a close, and I set out on my three-hour cross-country return journey.

I have done but scant justice to my subject, but I trust these notes will not entirely lack practical interest, and be of some little help to my readers,

Gleanings.

From *L'Oiseau* for March 1920, under the heading *Ornithological Chronicle* we glean the following items of interest to our readers. (Translated by Major R. A. Snape).

The Zoological Society of France has just allotted the Louis Petit prize to M. Jean Delacour. This prize is given every three years for ornithological studies relating to, either the systematic description of birds, or the study of their habits, or the introduction and acclimatisation into France and the French colonies of useful or ornamental species. In preceding years the Louis Petit Prize, which was founded in 1914 has been awarded to M. Xavier Raspail (1914) and Charles van Kempon (1917).

The Honourable Mrs. Bourke actually possesses a Malachite Sunbird (*Nectarinia famosa*) which she brought back from the Cape in January 1914. The bird lives in a cage in winter and is released into the aviary from April to September. Mrs. Bourke has also a Blue Sugarbird (*Coereba coerulea*) which has lived in captivity for eleven years. We think that we have here records of longevity which deserve to be recognised. It is very rare that birds of these species live so long, even when at liberty.

Another case of extraordinary longevity is that of the Javan Peacock (*Pavo muticus*) which belongs to Madame Rambaud, the importer of natural history specimens, who lives at Montolivet, near Marseilles. This bird is forty-eight years old. There is nothing in its form to show old-age. It is still an excellent producer, and four of its young were bred last year.

We have already announced that the Marquis of Tavistock had received, in October 1919, a collection of living birds, which had been collected specially for him in New Guinea, Java, etc. Lord Tavistock has only kept, except thirteen New Guinea Tri-coloured Parrot-Finches (*Erythrura trichroa*) the Psittacides, in the study and breeding of which he has specialised. He has been good enough to send us the interesting photographs of the Pesquet Parrot, which we reproduce here, as well as the following description of the Perruches Parrots of the collection (already noted in B.N.).

The Marquis of Tavistock still owns a *Pyrrhulopsis splendens* and a *P. tabuensis*, a Gang-gang Cockatoo, some many coloured Guilding Amazons, which he would willingly lend to another amateur to mate and try to breed them, provided that he should promise to be very careful with them and to hand over to him half of the results.

CUBIST PARRAKEETS.

[Reprinted from *The Times*, January 8th, 1921, with our apologies and thanks to the Authors and Editor—both cuttings per Revd. G. H. Raynor, M.A.—Editor "B.N."].

Colour and Noise in the Zoo Parrot House.

"There are over 500 species of Parrot coming from almost every part of the world except Europe, and yet with common characters that cannot be mistaken. They are sleek, noisy and overdressed, vain, treacherous, and attractive."

"In summer the visitor who is not an expert in the group or a student of oddities may be content with a passing glance at the screaming row near the main gates of the Zoo, or at their graceful flight in one of the large outdoor aviaries. But in winter time is well spent in a long visit to the parrot house. The noise is the first impression. Nesting parrots hiss like a snake to frighten intruders; a few, like *Melopsittacus*, indulge in a soft warble. Most of the larger kinds can imitate human speech—an odd character, for which it seems impossible to suggest any usefulness. But almost all screech, uttering cries most discordant to the human ear. Parrots, like some other intelligent birds, but unlike all mammals except monkeys, show an instinctive dread of snakes, and when one is brought near them they get into a state of excitement and scream vigorously. Probably their discordant cries have a social character, for all parrots live in flocks and keep together by the noise they make."

"A few parrots, such as the white and black cockatoos and the grey-green owl parrot, are self-coloured. The great majority are gaudy, the colours usually being disposed in sharply marked patches offering violent contrasts. The climax is reached by the macaws, but study of the cages shows that lories and lorikeets, conures and amazons, and many of the smaller parrakeets have leanings to cubism in pattern and colour. It is almost as difficult to suggest explanations of the hues of parrots as of their cries. They cannot be ascribed to sexual selection, because with a few exceptions the males and females are impossible to distinguish. The *Eclectus* parrots of the Malay Achipelago have green males and red females. The female of the crested cockatoo-parrakeet of Australia has yellow marks on the tail which are absent in her mate. The females of the green pigmy parrots of Papua are duller than the males. But these cases of sexual dimorphism are exceptions. The vivid colouration might be supposed to be protective in the bright light of the tropics, but these birds advertise their presence so noisily that a greater or lesser degree of visibility would seem to be indifferent. Possibly the exuberance of colour happens simply because protection is unnecessary. In the same way animals from the great depths of the ocean, where no light penetrates, are often marked with strange patterns and bright colours. In breeding time, on the other hand, parrots seek concealment in burrows or hollow trees, and their white eggs are always hidden away. . . . . Parrakeets and the smaller parrots not infrequently breed in captivity. The newly-hatched young have a scanty down, often marked with streaks of bright colour."

Many of our members will consider the above interesting comments almost a libel on the *Psittaci*, which have many admirers. We consider it too sweeping, though its main conclusions cannot be gainsaid. The majority of this Order are certainly garishly coloured, and their colour areas somewhat sharply contrasted, but it is not a colour comparison without harmony; also, there are a fair number, while still clad in tropical colours, whose garments are an arrangement of nicely blending colours. The most sharply contrasted individuals are so to us, most probably because we see them apart from their natural setting.

They have powerful and sharp beaks, as those who have kept them know to their cost, and most, even tame specimens, object to being handled, and there are a good few species which may be spoken of as readily becoming finger-tame, though undoubtedly the majority must be handled with caution; nevertheless, unless handling be attempted, one need never get a bite in a large aviary well filled with parrots or parrakeets. Amazon Parrots are not remarkable for amiability as a rule, but the writer has a male Blue-front, which will come on to the hand of *any stranger*, and he has never given anyone even a slight nip yet.

Lories and Lorikeets, the most gorgeously clad, perhaps, of all parrots, yet the majority, though presenting plenty of contrast, can scarcely, in the writer's opinion, be called garish; many are charming examples of brilliant colour arrangement. After all, much of this is a mere matter of opinion, and the garments of " Cubist Parrakeets," though brilliant, are scarcely more sharply contrasted than the ladies *le mode*, or the gent's full dress suit.

What do our *psittaci* keeping members think?

Ed. " B.N."

HERONS AND KESTRELS FILMED.

Capt. Knight's Pictures In the Tree-tops.

" In a private picture theatre in Wardour-street the other day Captain C. W. R. Knight showed for the first time two of the most fascinating films of bird life that could be possibly imagined. Captain Knight's interest in birds is lifelong; on many occasions he has secured remarkable still photographs by patient watching of the nests, but it is only during the past year that he has endeavoured to go a step further and obtain moving pictures of their habits. The first two films he has produced deal with the story of the heron and the kestrel. To the general public they are amazingly interesting; to the ornithologist they should be invaluable."

" All Captain Knight's work has been done within 50 miles of London, and he must have spent the greater part of last summer in the tree-tops. The only way to secure a pictorial record was to erect an observation post in the topmost branches some 75ft. from the ground, to camouflage both the photographer and his post with layers of sacking, and then to wait patiently day after day, until it was possible to find the psychological moment at which to turn the handle of the camera."

" Patience has certainly been rewarded, and by the aid of the film it is possible to trace the growth of a family of herons and later on of a family of kestrels. One sees the nest, strong enough to bear a human being, and the three young herons waiting for the return of their parent bringing with her the morning meal. The youngsters pass the time by making tentative attempts at flying until the arrival of the mother, who disgorges an assortment of shrimps and other delicacies and immediately flies away for more, leaving the young birds to settle down to slumber after they have eaten to repletion. At last two of the herons take their courage in their wings and fly from the nest, leaving only one, with room at last to scratch its head. Then even the youngest decides to fly away into the unknown, and nothing is to be seen but a deserted nest."

"In the second film the mother is seen bringing a tasty dish for the young kestrels, a lark, which is quickly gobbled up. An unsuspecting field mouse is seen darting across a field; the kestrel swoops down, and again the youngsters are happy. Then the father does his duty and catches a lark. The mother takes it from his talons in mid-air, and there is again great rejoicing in the nest, though the meal is such a good one that it is with some difficulty that the young birds complete it. For a few moments Captain Knight seems to wander from his subject and introduces the spectator to a thrush's nest with the mother bird and one solitary youngster, but the reason soon becomes apparent. The young thrush decides to go out into the world, but it is immediately caught by the kestrel and brought to her own nest."

"Here, in our opinion, Captain Knight secures his most remarkable pictures. The young birds are seen tearing the thrush to pieces and eating until they could eat no more. But one of the birds, deciding not to be beaten, takes the remains of the thrush to a neighbouring branch and slowly devours every remaining scrap of the victim, though the look of anxiety on its face when the process is completed suggests that even in the world of the kestrel indigestion is not unknown. In the last phase of the film the young kestrels are seen going out on expeditions of their own, and one is shown devouring a beetle which it holds firmly in its claw."

"Quite apart from the absorbingly interesting subjects with which they deal, the films are marked throughout by some beautiful photography. Some of the glimpses of the land of the tree-tops are admirable, and from first to last one is lost in admiration at Captain Knight's wonderful patience. Presumably he will give us some more of these pictures during the coming summer, for they afford a concrete example of the educational possibilities of the film. When a national film museum comes into being, these films should be among the first candidates for admission."

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Editorial.

THE PROSPECT.—This is certainly as bright as could be expected in these unsettled times. The war has passed, but re-construction is not yet complete, and though the outlook is not free from difficulty, we feel that the majority of the members will be at one with us, that these difficulties are to be triumphed over and not succumbed to; and will all rally round the F.B.C. banner and prevent any curtailment of its programme or usefulness.

The future is certainly not distant when the issue of the Club Journal, BIRD NOTES, will be less costly and difficult, though pre-war level may be in the quite distant future.

If the prospect is to be realised all must do their part. Any of our members who have their aviaries going, though much less pretentiously than in the past, must communicate to the Club Journal the doings of their birds and all aviary episodes; not allowing false modesty to hinder their pen.

The acquisition of rare or uncommon species, should be recorded in BIRD NOTES, and the birds described.

If the present bulk of BIRD NOTES and the number of its illustrations are to be maintained some help will have to be given by way of the Illustration Fund, for, even the increased subscription does not cover the present cost of BIRD NOTES.

The points wherein we failed last year, as stated in *The Retrospect* and *Secretary's Report* in last issue, must be noted and remembered, and an effort made to avoid them, or supply what was lacking, if we are to take full advantage of the 1921 Prospect.

This prospect is in our hands (this includes not merely the officers of the Club, *but every individual member*) to make or mar.

Which shall it be?

Post Mortem Reports.

For Regulation *vide* page ii. of cover.

Canary: Mrs. Calvocoressi, Liverpool.—This bird had an intense entiritis, which probably was at first less intense and acute, and against which some resistance was shown. However, pneumonia supervened and caused death. It is impossible to treat these small birds in more than a general way, i.e. warmth and good food.

Budgerigar (♀): J. Dobbie, Leith.—This was a case of pneumonia, probably the result of cold. A bird when chilled cannot resist germ attacks as when at its proper temperature. The intestines were also inflamed, but this is probably secondary, the inflammation not being very extensive.

N. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist.

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Yellow-backed Whydah (♀).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Whydahs in My Aviaries.

By W. Shore Baily.

1920 proved as bad a year for its breeding results with my Whydahs as it did with any of the other groups kept in my aviaries.

These birds generally do very well with me, and, as our readers will perhaps remember, I was the first to breed the Jackson Whydah (*Depranoplectes jacksoni*) in this country, and I have also recorded successes with the Red-collared Whydah (*Penthetria ardens*). Last season my collection included:

White-winged (*Urobrachya albonotata*).
Yellow-backed (*Penthetriopsis macrura*).
Crimson-ringed (*Coliostruthus laticauda*).
Red-collared (*Penthetria ardens*).
Giant (*Choera procne*).

From these five species not a single young one was fully reared. The White-winged Whydahs made many nests in the long grass. These nests—very flimsy structures—were fastened to the grass stems, generally from a foot to eighteen inches above the ground. No eggs were laid, and I am not at all sure whether the hens will eventually prove to be cocks, although they are not, as yet, showing any signs of changing colour.

The Red-collared Whydahs were more successful, for these did hatch out two clutches of eggs. Their first nest was built in a laurel; the same bush in which a Yellow-backed Whydah hen reared young, when mated with a Red-collared cock, some years previously. Two glossy green eggs, heavily splashed with various shades of brown, were laid, and these were duly hatched, the two young birds living for about a week, when

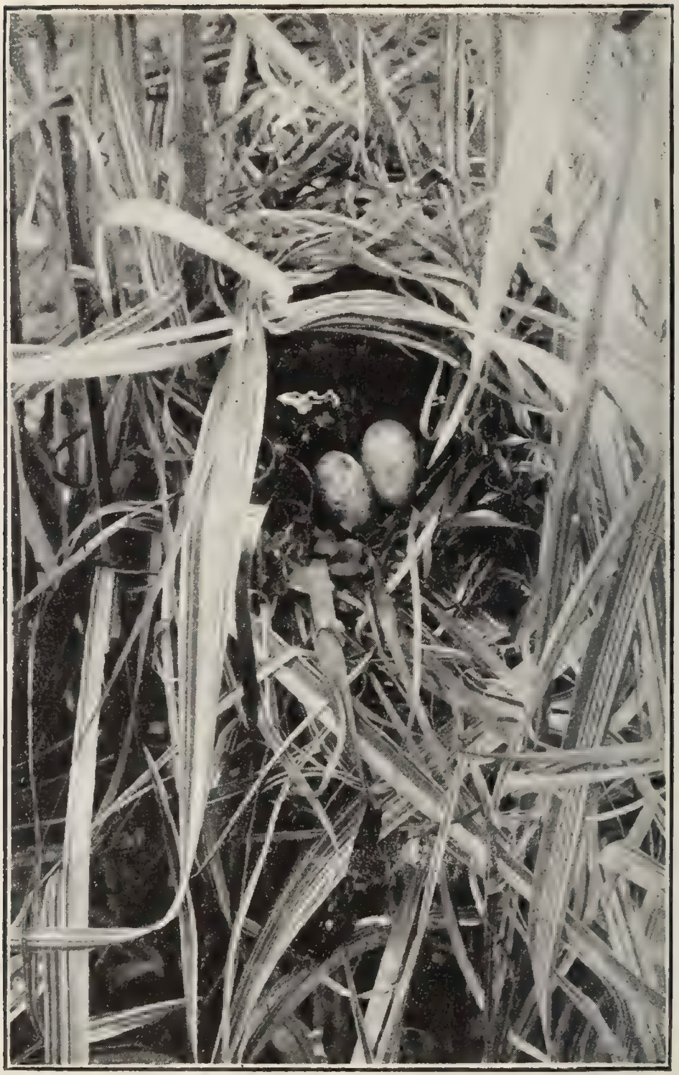

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Crimson-ringed Whydah's Nest and Eggs.

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Red-collared Whydah's Nest and Eggs.

they were drowned in a heavy rain storm. The hen soon went to nest again; this time I took the precaution to place a sheet of iron over the nest, with the result that the hen refused to sit. *Verb sap!* It does not always pay to interfere with sitting birds! However, late in the season she again went to nest; this time the nest was suspended in a raspberry cane, and as it was in a sheltered position, I hoped that success might be reached, but although two young birds were duly hatched they only lived a few days, the hen neglecting to feed them, and the cock, of course, took no interest in them whatever! The trouble seems to have been the hen's dislike for mealworms. An ample supply of these were handed out, but she refused to look at them. I think this is very curious, as these birds are usually at all times very keen on these insects.

The Crimson-ringed Whydahs were both hens, so I mated them to Red-collared cocks, as no Crimson-ringed cock was obtainable. Both hens nested—one in long grass and the other in bushes. The one that nested in the grass had three clutches of two each. The nests were very flimsy, and the first heavy storm invariably wrecked them, but, as the hen would not sit, this did not matter. The eggs were somewhat similar in colour to those of the Red-collared Whydah, but smaller and more elongated. The second hen built two or three well-constructed nests in privet bushes, and sat very steadily in them, but no eggs were laid.

The Giant Whydahs were another disappointment. The hen turned out to be an immature cock. I first suspected that something was wrong when I saw " her " flying about with " her " tail spread. Strange to say they agreed excellently together; the cock, who was in splendid feather the whole season, looked really lovely flying about in my large aviary with his long tail floating in the wind. From their not quarrelling I quite thought I had a true pair. Like most of the other Whydahs they take two years to come into colour. I had my bird over a year in my possession before it began to show colour, and then I noticed a patch of yellow showing on the shoulders. I fancy that a good many more cocks than hens are imported into this country. They are a great addition to any large aviary. The Yellow-backed Whydahs also turned out to be all males. I bought four of them—two partly in colour and two

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Crimson-ringed Whydah hen.

in eclipse. Early in the spring these two began to show signs of yellow on the back and shoulders, and in a week or two were in full colour in these parts. Strange to say the rest of the body remained brown for the whole of the season, and even now no signs of black feathers are showing. It looks from this as if the yelow colour only develops in the second year, leaving the black to appear the third year; it also seems as if this yellow is permanent in the males, as mine have now been in my possession for over a year without losing it. I hope to verify this in the coming season.

[The Duchess of Wellington has a Crimson-crowned Weaver (*Pyromelana flammiceps*) in her aviary, which has been there for over three years, *and in full colour the whole period.* I saw it on January 6th, and it was as fine a specimen as I have ever seen, apparently in most robust health, and certainly not lacking in vigour, as one would expect from such abnormality.—Ed.]

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Observations on Some Hybrids of the *Ploceidae.*

By A. Decoux.

[Reprinted from *L'Oiseau*, (January 1920) translated by Major A. E. Swayne, R.A.F., with our thanks to Editor and Author.—
Ed. " B.N."]

Most of the hybrids hatched in my aviaries have been love-children, sprung from some chance mating which I have done nothing to bring about. I am not very fond of hybrids, though I must admit that some of them are much finer birds than their parents. I remember particularly certain crosses of Blue-cap and Multi-colour born with one of our cleverest parrot-breeders, whose brilliant colour and elegant form delighted me when I saw them flitting about in their little cages near their parents. Perhaps many will find, too, that the subject represented in our coloured plate [A beautiful hybrid colouring of both parents beautifully blended, but the Melba Finch is dominant.—Ed. " B.N."] surpasses the beauty of the *Beau-marquet* (*Zonogastra melba L.*) and the Cordon Bleu (*Estrilda phoenicotis*, SWAINS.) from which it sprang. But the hybrids are rarely fertile: they are often great teases and hinder their companions (the mated pairs) from reproducing their species. Indeed my personal taste inclines me rather to study the manners of my protegés, and some peculiarity caught in the living creature pleases me more than the display of some strange and borrowed magnificence. Hybridization, from this point of view, has an advantage of its own, even if the hybrids are less interesting; it allows us to observe, during the mating season, the habits of rare "animals" which it has been impossible to mate with one of their own species. In these curious unions, the instinct of each parent is almost completely preserved. This is shown in the case of hybridization, quoted by Russ, between a White-headed Munia and a Japanese Sparrow; neither father nor mother modified in the slightest the kind of food which each species gives to its young during the rearing period. That is the general rule. We may then infer that in all probability the birds observed would act in the same way if they were mated with a male or female of their own species. Sometimes, however, it is not so, and it has been established, for example, that most of the *Fringillides* mated with a female canary do not feed their young, while even in captivity they share this task with their mate.

But the hybridization allows of observations of another kind, and it is very wrong for certain people to regard it as a pastime with no import. Does not the study of hybrids, whether they be born in captivity or in freedom, permit the classifier to draw some useful conclusions on the affinity of species? And does not the comparison of the parents with their young, especially when the latter are fertile, give the biologist an opportunity to make fruitful observations? Is it necessary to recall here how much light experiments in hybridization have, of late years, thrown in the obscure matter of transmission of ancestral traits?

It was not considerations of this kind, one will no doubt believe, which gave me the idea of uniting one of my Grenadines* (*Granatina granatina*, L.) with a female Cordon Bleu. I had remarked on the great affinity between these two species, and in 1916, despairing of finding females to mate with my Grenadines, I let loose a female Cordon Bleu in the cage of one of them. Already I anticipated the appearance of hybrids of extraordinary beauty, but the experiment well-nigh had a fatal ending; the male bird, very excited, chased the female without intermission, and I had to take her away for fear of her getting killed. I then put the male free near to the cages of the Grenadins. They called to him without ceasing. Some months later, thinking that the separation had made the males wiser, I let one of them fly into the room. But I had to take him back to avoid a mishap.

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* Violet-eared Waxbill.—Ed., B.N.

The next year the experiment almost succeeded. Reunited since March, the birds mated, and after several sittings of addled eggs, I obtained some young ones, which, alas! were not reared. All the summer abortive broods followed each other. The young were regularly abandoned towards the third or fourth day of their existence. Once I had some young ones that lived for about twelve days, but then they died also. I am convinced that if the experiment were taken up again under different conditions it ought to succeed, and that the hybrid thus obtained, would be remarkably beautiful. In any case the failure of this attempt proves the near relatiosnhip of these two species, and it has enabled me to make some interesting observations on the habits of the Grenadine.

Nothing can equal the graciousness of this bird, whilst it is making love. Like many other Astrilds, when he desires to mate, he approaches the female with a blade of grass in his beak, and begins to hop about near her. The feathers on the top of his head are then quite smooth, whereas those on the neck are quite ruffled, forming a kind of collar round the nape of the neck; he holds his long, motionless tail aslant, and, I don't know why, but whenever I see this beautifully coloured bird in this attitude, I am reminded of some lord of former times making a low bow to the princess of his heart.

As a result of this failure, I managed to rear in the following year the beautiful hybrids which M. Delacour has sketched for us for this issue. The outline and tne carriage of the bird are faithfully reproduced; only the colour of the breast, purp'ish-red with tinges of violet, more or less prominent, according to the way the light falls on it, has not been brought out as skilfully as it was in the water painting of M. Delacour. This is the most remarkable feature of this bird's plumage.

These hybrids were reared under the following circumstances:—

Since my two Grenadines had died in the autumn, owing to the neglect of one of my servants, the female Cordon Bleu was left in the aviary, and the following Spring, a Beau-marquet, which I had had a long time, began to pay court to her. Nests were built in different places; eggs were laid and sat upon; but they were addled. The male performed the duties of incubation with astonishing zest. In April, a new nest containing more eggs was destroyed by some other birds—and so completely that my hopes, which had at first been great, suddenly fell to zero. And I ceased to take any further interest in the new family.

At the end of May my attention was attracted, one morning, by the chirping of some young ones, which proceeded from a breeding cage of the Hartz. I was not aware that this cage contained a nest, and, without making any noise, I waited for the bird to come out, which was feeding these little ones, that I might know to whom belonged the new-born, whose voice I heard. A few minutes later the Beau-marquet flew out. Twelve days later, when I entered this aviary, I found in a sunny corner a young hybrid, which flew away at my approach. There were three of them, and they fed themselves a fortnight after they left the nest.

However, the male had repaired the nest, and the female began to lay again. This second nest produced four other young ones.

A third, in October, was destroyed by mice, which have never been more troublesome to me than this year. After this loss there was no further attempt at nesting.

Description of the hybrid in its young plumage:

When they leave the nest these birds resemble young Cordon Bleus, but they are of a stronger build and bigger proportions. They carry the tail erect. The legs and feet, which are stronger than those of the Cordon Bleu, are pink-coloured. The black beak is shaped similarly to that of the father; at the commissures it is adorned with blue warts, a feature which also belongs to a young Cordon Bleu. There is not a trace of blue in the plumage except round the beak. The breast is greyish-white; the lower parts of the body are lighter. The tail has tinges of vivid brown, recalling the colour of the father's tail. A week after the birds have left the nest, their backs begin to change colour; but it is not till three months later that the birds obtain their complete grown up plumage.

The other plate represents a hybrid Diamant modeste* × Mandarin§ born also in my aviary (*Aidemosyne modesta*, Gould) × *Tæniopygia castanotis*, Gould).

I read, a long time ago in "The Feathered World," that this hybrid had already been reared in Germany. Since the stoppage of importation prevented me from mating the male Modeste that I possess, with a female of his own species, I determined to try the experiment myself.

In order to have more chances of success, it is better to put the birds of the different species, which one wishes to mate, together in a wooden cage, closed in all round except at the front. If this is done in the autumn, the birds have then all the long winter months in which to get to know each other, and the closed up cage prevents them from being distracted from each other by their neighbours. This method has always been very successful with me. My cage contained two breeding-cages filled with feathers and hay. The female Mandarin chose one of them in which to pass the night. But she received very coldly the loving advances of the male Modeste, whose head she seemed to have turned completely. The result was that, in March, the eggs that she laid were addled. It will be noticed that in all the cases of hybridization so far mentioned, the first eggs laid were aways barren. Examples to the contrary are rare; it is only with time that fertile eggs are obtained.

In April I put the birds in the aviary, taking care to remove all the male Mandarins, so that the regret of a spouse for the object of his affections should not distract the female from her new suitor. The nest was soon constructed in a box into which the two birds retired the following evening. In July, however, I had not seen a single little one. I thought that perhaps a sitting had taken place without any success. At the end of this month the very audible chirping of young ones in the nest was heard by a servant. I waited a week; but not seeing anything leave the box, I lost patience and opened it one morning. It contained a small bird, still too young to leave the nest, but already having enough feathers to make use of its wings. At the sight of me it began to cry, by which I found that the inside speckles of its throat resembled in every particular those of the young Mandarin. Then, after this legitimate protest against the disturbance of its domicile, it abruptly turned its back upon me, and tumbled down into the middle of the aviary. I put it back in the box, but, as always happens in such cases, the bird refused to stay there, so that, as I expected, its corpse was brought to me two days later, before breakfast.—Therefore, never touch young birds when they are growing their feathers.

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* Cherry Finch. § Zebra Finch.—Ed., B.N.

It was only at the end of September that I again heard cries coming from the nest. Two days later a young bird was outside, very lively and flying well. A few days later, seeing that the family did not increase, I visited the nest; it contained two addled eggs. The young ones certainly grow very slowly, judging from the long time that elapsed between the repairing of the nest and the little ones leaving it. They grow much more slowly than young Diamants Modestes or Mandarins. The father visited the nest very irregularly, and the brunt of the hard work of feeding the young one fell on the mother. Perhaps this is the cause of the anomaly.

On the 15th October the young bird found its own food. The most notable difference which then distinguished it from the Mandarins of its own age was the absence of the "whiskers" characteristic of this species. Its beak was longer and not as broad. The few patches of white in evidence on the secondary wings of the Modestes were clearly marked and revealed its origin.

At the end of November it had assumed its full adult male plumage. This is the description of it which I find in my notes:

The wings are like those of the father, but the wing primaries are not edged with white; the back is of a less vivid colour than that of the Modeste. Of the red on the head of the father there is only a slight trace evident on the forehead. It has no black bib. The chest is streaked like that of the male Mandarin; the traces of black are more deeply marked, and go as far as the stomach. A vertical black line under the eye is the only remains of the "moustache" of the Mandarin; the second black streak round the beak is wanting, and the white patch contained between the two is finely speckled with black. The patch of chestnut colour round the ear is not as extensive as on the Mandarin. Its sides are vivid chestnut dotted with white; the tail feathers and coverings of the tail are like those of the Mandarin. The stomach is white. The legs and feet are red, being not quite as thick and a little longer than the mother's. The bird is shaped like the Mandarin, but it is more slender.

In the same aviary in which this hybrid was reared, a nest of White-headed Donacles (*Donacola flaviprymna*, Gould) containing five young ones, was ready to fly at the end of June. I had not at all expected this good result, for from the beginning of May, when the nest began to be built, the male Donacle deserted the female; he appeared gloomy and puffed up, and looked ill. But was he really so? And what is to account for the female starting to build the nest under these conditions? Since I was of the opinion that this was only a passing disorder, I left him in the aviary. He lived until the young ones were fully reared, on whom he spent a lot of trouble. Then one day I found him dead under a tree. The young ones took no notice of his disappearance. When they began to assume their adult colours I noticed that their plumage, instead of becoming lighter, had a tendency to become darker, and that speckles appeared on the chest. It is well known that some naturalists think that the *Donacola flaviprymna* is only a sub-division of the *Donacola castaneithorax**, and they support their opinion by the fact that among birds coming from Australia are found some *Donacola flaviprymna*†, whose plumage is very much alike, in some respects, that of the *Donacola castaneithorax*, an obvious proof, they say, that we are dealing with an unsettled variety which has a tendency to revert to the primitive type. Personally, I have not observed that any of the young ones born in my aviaries —I have reared at least thirty in five years—have been inclined to vary. So in this case I wondered if I were going to have the good fortune to be present at such a transformation. At first I thought I was, but in November, when I put the birds in the aviary so as to be able to watch them more closely and to let them hibernate in a cage, I found that their plumage had no resemblance whatever to that of the common Donacle. Only the brown shade of the head recalled the plumage of the *Donacola flaviprymna.* The cheeks were speckled with dark brown which became lighter lower down; the forehead was very dark on some birds, lighter on others; some only had a black bib on the throat; the lower part of the body, almost white on some of the birds, more yellowish on others, was speckled with brown on the chest and the sides—a peculiarity which, when one looked at them from a distance, gave them a mistaken resemblance to Diamants Modestes (Cherry Finch), male or female· according to whether they had the bib or not. Henceforth, I had grave doubts as to who was the father of the Donacle. This year I found out that the Modeste is the father of these birds, when I saw him mate with the female Donacle, which was a widow, and produce three new hybrids like the first. The young birds of last year besides, acquired during the moulting season, lighter shades on the wings and the back, which make them resemble still more the Modeste. The white patches on the wing secondaries also are present on these hybrids. It must be concluded, therefore, that hardly was the Modeste free in the aviary than he mated with the female Donacle, then abandoned the hatching of the eggs and the rearing of the little ones to the couple of Donacoles in order to return to the female Mandarin. It is an amusing adventure, but true!

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* For this debated fact I cannot do better than refer the reader to the articles published in the *Avicultural Magazine* by Mr. Seth Smith and Mr. Teschemaker. I am inclined to think that the birds with the irregular plumage are hybrids of two different species.

† Yellow-rumped Mannikins.—Ed., B.N.

I will finish this article, already too long, by three general remarks, which the various hybridizations observed in my aviaries have suggested to me. I deduce them from a good number of examples, many of which have not been mentioned here:

(1) In cases of hybridization between *Ploceidae*, the male almost invariably feeds the young ones. If he does not, the female also neglects them and they die.

(2) At their birth the fledglings are like chickens of the same species as the mother. They still resemble the mother when they have grown their young plumage. This does not

mean to say that before they assume their adult colouring there are no traces visible of the father's characteristics, but the remark is true for the plumage as a whole.

(3) When the young birds are full grown, however, it is most often the case that they resemble their fathers, although the ascendency of the mother is always evident. It is clear that this is not a hard and fast rule; as a notable exception I might quote the case of a beautiful hybrid Astrild ondulé × Cordon Bleu; but this is usually the case, and almost always happens.

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Field Notes from Mashonaland.

BY GUY FALKNER, F.Z.S.

These rough notes are mainly about the birds of Southern Rhodesia.

January 18th, 1920. It was very interesting seeing a Chameleon I caught to-day. I put it on my coat, which was a greenish-grey tweed, more grey than green, and held it up near the peach tree I caught it on. The side nearest the peach tree turned the same colour as the leaves—a vivid green—but the side nearest me turned a greyish-green colour, almost the exact hue of my coat. It was very interesting; it looked as if each side of the chameleon had been painted—all this took place in the short time of under two minutes—the quickest change I have ever seen a chameleon able to achieve.

There are lots of baby chameleons on the bougainvillea trees feeding on minute spiders; they were about as large as tadpoles before the feet begin to form—funny looking little chaps, reminding one very much of a gargoyle come to life; while so young as this they seem unable to turn any other colour except what they are on being born—a greyish-green.

With this non-birdy introduction I will confine myself to the birds.

One of the " boys " on the farm shot a Bee-eater and winged it, otherwise it was quite unhurt, and his suggestion (he was Dutch!) that I should cage it and feed it on mealies (maize) and bread was rather beyond the mark; I am afraid it would not have lived long in any case, but an insectivorous bird to be dieted on bread and mealies in an overturned soap-box for a cage did *not* appeal to me, neither, I thought, would it to the Bee-eater, which was destroyed directly it was brought to me, as its wing was too badly damaged to even try and keep it temporarily till it was well enough to be liberated. Bee-eaters are the most wonderful blending of colours, these charming little birds of the spruits.

The swallow-like tail is green, tipped with metallic blue; blue at the top of the tail; blue and greenish breast; blue wings with ruddy-coloured primaries; buff running up to purplish-terra-cotta to the forehead, which is green; eyeband black; eye ruby; bib chrome-yellow.

The Bee-eater flight is rather like that of a swallow, but it has the characteristic trait of the *Muscicapidae*—that of returning to the stump or other post of outlook directly they have caught their prey. He sits motionless on his post of outlook until some winged insect comes within range, when he is off and back again almost before one realises he has left his point of vantage.

The Scarlet Bishop is another " jewel of the spruit," with his courting dress of vermilion and black; he is a rival to the Bee-eater in a colour competition, but " comparisons are odious."

The call of the veldt is one of the things which is unexplainable, but no one, I think, could fail to be bitten by a landscape garden as far as one could see; no landscape gardener, as a matter of fact, could compete with even the tiniest bit of it, with its purple hills in the distance and an African sky, the spruits with their blue water-lilies, rock and kopjes covered with their flora-fauna of gold, russet-green, and grey, to say nothing of various creepers, the wildness of it all, and the atmosphere of the whole of the surroundings could never be conveyed to anyone on paper or by word of mouth; it is indescribable, but if you have ever been to Africa, no matter to South or East Africa, you will return if you are a nature-lover.

Another bird, or rather two of them, which were down at the spruit were two Herons, but instead of being the bluish colours of the British Heron, they were drab, dull-looking birds of brown and grey; much taller than our Heron, and infinitely slimmer. Often one finds them miles from a spruit on the Kaffir mealie lands, and, strange to say, they seem to take toll of these, and also of a peculiar fat locust found on the mealies when they are ripe.

The Bittern is rather like the Heron just described; one got up right under my feet one day and for a moment I had a good view of it. The general body colouring was brownish-purple; breast white and grey; legs and feet horn-colour; bill and bare patch round eye (the latter large and prominent) dark brown.

There are plenty of Divers, large birds coloured rather like a cormorant's back, but with buffish breasts; head and neck reminded one of a snake. They were usually sitting on a stone right out in the middle of a spruit or river.

Sometimes one comes across a brood of baby Muscovy Ducks scuttling about the spruits after flies—dear little balls of black and yellow fluff with beady eyes and horn-coloured bills and legs—funnily enough the tame Muscovys never seem to interbreed with the wild birds, though one often sees them feeding on the mealie lands together, and rarely, very rarely, they may be found down at a spruit feeding with the domestic birds.

Of Pheasants one is sure to see plenty, and two species of Partridge, Snipe, Ring Dove (Wild Barbary), Palm, and Masked Doves, Fruit Pigeons, Jack-hangers—a species of shrike, black and white, and with their long waving black tails are very like a magpie. These birds become tame quickly in captivity, and they make good pets, as they have very interesting habits, but are awful shriekers.

Little St. Helena Waxbills (*Estrilda astrilda*) one sees diligently searching the reed-beds of the spruits from top to bottom. This species makes rather a peculiar nest, like that of a miniature meadow pipit, and fills it with six to eight little round white eggs; they are very active little mites and are very tit-like in their habits, but I have never seen one hanging head downwards from the reeds, which they continually search for minute insects.

A Dinker slinking away in the thorn bushes one is sure to see, and once a dinker doe came within five or six feet of me, with one foot up and her little black nose quivering trying to find my " wind," and I was within a few feet of her the whole time. Days like these make one feel alive again.

One day I got a nest of a black weaver which I can't place*—it is entirely black with an orange patch on its back (Oh! how I longed for a Thorburn-Book of South and East African birds, so that one could see what they were at a glance). The nest was built among a lot of other weavers' (Scarlet Bishops') nests, and exactly resembled theirs except that it was rather larger and stouter; it contained three eggs, a full clutch, so a Dutch naturalist told me; two of the eggs were blue with purple and brown blotches at the thick end; the other was a clear sky-blue.

The Purple Kingfisher is common too round here, but is very local. A lovely bird this—about as large as the Hedge Accentor; bright violet-purple on head, back, wings and tail; breast dull orange-red, fading to buff at the vent; brown eye; and coral beak and legs. They are very shy, hard to approach, and consequently to make notes of them is almost impossible.

Secretary Birds (*Serpentarius secretarius*) are plentiful everywhere, and, I think, now they are " protected " birds their numbers have considerably increased to what they used to be. They are to be met with in parties (family parties) of six to eight, two old birds and last year's young, except just before and during the breeding season, when they go about in pairs, hunting for lizards, mice, snakes, etc.; they appear to be sociable birds. Their flight is very peculiar, and when they want to leave the ground run for twelve to fifteen yards with extended wings, before they finally take to flight; it is so gradual that it is hard to realise when they actually are flying; perhaps the best description is to liken them to an aeroplane, both on leaving the earth and landing. They make good pets, become remarkably tame, and follow one about like dogs. Occasionally they go for long spiral-flights, rising higher and higher, but appear to do so without effort, for one seldom sees their wings move, and except that they get gradually higher in the air, one might imagine they were suspended by some invisible wire and being gradually drawn up to the skies until, to the naked eye, they appear no larger than bumble bees.

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* Probably the Golden- (Yellow) backed Weaver.—Ed., B.N.

One of the commonest sights at this time of year (January) are the flocks of Storks, mostly white ones, but occasionally one sees a pair of Blacks, or a Marabou. They do a great deal of good, preying on locusts, and are never, by any chance, shot at by the farmers, but the Kaffirs are not above eating them; they are, however, very wary birds, and, I imagine, the natives would only secure an odd bird now and again. Locusts and grasshoppers do not appear to be fattening foods, as three White Storks, caught at different times, were very light indeed and in each case their breast-bones were like razor-blades.

Photo by E. O. Page.

White Stork nesting in the Gulls' Aviary at London Zoo.

Cattle Egrets (*Ardeidae*) there are plenty of, and these go about in flocks of six to fifty, spending most of their time walking round the cattle and horses, and picking the large, fat, blue ticks off the legs of both; funnily enough I have never seen them attempt to pick ticks off either sheep or goats, which, being nearer the ground, one would have thought would have provided a more plentiful and easily obtained meal than the few odd ones they pick off the larger live-stock.

The Hammer-head (*Scopus umbretta*), or Hammer-kop as it is called in Cape Colony, certainly takes the precedence of the other sombre-coloured Rhodesian birds on account of their interesting habits. Several pairs can usually be put up, any time of day or night, off any of the " pans " (waterholes with bog, etc.); they are very tame birds on the whole and will generally permit Europeans to approach within ten or fifteen yards of them, and Kaffirs even nearer, and this I noticed to be the case with all species of Rhodesian birds without exception; they would always allow a " black " to approach nearer than a "white." I was never lucky enough to see the eggs of a Hammer-head, but twice saw a nest, a huge structure, strong enough to hold a man. The nest was built in a dead thorn tree, and at a height of about twelve feet—they add to their nests every year, and the first nest I saw had a biscuit-tin lid and a bit of red limbo on the edge, so, like the kites, they evidently appreciate colour for their home decorations.

Snakes, of course, abound everywhere, from python to a little grey snake, about the size of a worm and the same thickness; but this, and the Black, and Green Mombas are the only really common reptiles one comes across everyday, with, of course, the exception of water and land tortoise, " crocks," and chameleons. The male of the Green Momba is a beautiful snake, bright emerad-green; but the female is a dull-coloured reptile, being a uniform mud-colour all over. They are great tree climbers (both Green and Black Mombas) and are very dangerous, as they are sure and sudden death if they bite, which they do at the slightest provocation. It is very sedom one sees a creeper growing up veranda poles, the reason being that Mombas climb up them and are then apt to drop on to one, in which case FINIS with a capital " F."

It is a great pity that there is no book (at least so far as I am aware of) with good coloured plates of South African birds, as one so often sees birds which one cannot identify. The bird which was continually in the orange trees, along with a couple of Yellow-vented Bulbuls, was, I believe, a species of thrush: black eyes; horn-coloured beak, legs and feet; French-grey head; breast and tail, the latter shading into deep sepia or brown at the tip; back, and under wings rust-coloured; each feather on the breast had the merest suspicion of a tipping of white—a very striking bird and very sweet songster; when singing, its favourite perch was an old dead blue-gum, which it sat on—right at the top of the highest twig it could get to. I never heard it sing while in company with the bulbuls, but frequently heard it utter a low call-note, which was never answered, for I only saw the one bird, which, by the way, hung about the house for a couple of weeks.

Of the various nests I saw the most interesting, to me, were those of the "bishop-birds." They are such extraordinary workers, these weavers of various species. The Scarlet Bishops' nests are built actually on the edge of the Spruits, the stems of three or four rushes being woven into the nest, the material being mostly "stick-grass;" the nest is about twice as large as a wren's, but of a more elongate shape and the hole nearer the top. Some were lined with feathers, but others were quite unlined. The clutch consists of three to five hedge-sparrow-blue eggs, similar in shape to a Sand Martin's, though sometimes one finds an odd one of an almost circular shape. The nests of the Orange Bishops, unlike those of their Scarlet congeners, are suspended from a thorn tree, usually hanging over water, but occasionally one finds a nesting colony three or four hundred yards away from water. These nests are much rounder in shape, with the entrance hole lower down and protected with a "lip," to prevent the rain blowing in and the young blowing out! The eggs are very variable in colour: pale blue with brownish spots and blotches; white with the same markings; once I found a clutch exactly resembling those of the British Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)! All the nests I examined were thickly lined with feathers.

To be continued.

A Yorkshire Aviary.

By H. Carr Walker.

A few notes on the results of foreign bird-keeping in a cold northern aviary may be interesting.

At the end of 1914 I brought ten or a dozen pairs of finches from Australia, and built an outside aviary for their accommodation—wooden shelter 12ft. x 8ft. x 8ft., and flight of same dimensions.

The first winter the birds were housed in the shelter with artificial heat; the second winter no heat was given.

This winter the birds are left out in the flight, as in the summer, except that they are fed only in the shelter. My experience is that artificial heat is detrimental to the birds and that fresh air is more necessary to their well being. The losses of birds were greater with than without heat.

The following species of birds have been kept here under these conditions:

Finches: Zebra, Chestnut-breasted, Bicheno, Parson, Long-tailed Grass, Cuban, Olive, Rose, Ribbon, and Saffron.

Waxbills: Blue-breasted, Avadavats, Golden-breasted, St. Helena, African, and Bar-breasted Firefinches (*Lagonosticta rufopicta*).

Whydahs: Paradise, Pin-tail, and Long-tailed. These will not winter outside.

Weavers: Many species.

Mannikins, Indigo Buntings, Budgerigars, Doves, and Quail.

It is a mistake to have too much cover growing in the flight as, in my experience, it makes the birds shy and wild, and they are rarely visible.

Ribbon Finches, Zebra Finches, Budgerigars, Cape Canaries, Olive Finches, and Redpolls have bred very freely.

Last season an African Silverbill mated with a Spice Finch and reared three fine young hybrids. They have the Silverbill shape and Spice Finch colouring.

I find that in a small aviary the following are very pugnacious in the breeding season: Weavers, Pin-tail Whydahs, Saffron Finches and Budgerigars; although in a large aviary little mischief is done.

I now have a large aviary with a stone shelter, 16ft. x 16ft. x 16ft., and flight, 35ft. x 16ft. x 16ft.; containing all the above named species, and did not lose a young bird last season through injury. There are about 150 small birds in this aviary, and it is worth while keeping the number comparatively small in order to maintain the variety of species.

Blue-breasted Waxbills, Indigo Buntings, Black-breasted Quail*, Java Sparrows, and Cuban Finches all nested last season, but without result; the continuous rain and damp was too much for them.

A closing hint to the effect that Voles and Field Mice are not averse to devouring eggs and even newly hatched young birds, may be useful.

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Editorial.

Australian Birds: We are informed that, owing to the strict enforcement of prohibition of export regulations, there is very little probability of further consignments coming to hand. This brings us face to face with a rather unpleasant fact, viz: that there is a prospect in the near future of the georgeously arrayed and interesting Australian avifauna being entirely absent from our aviaries. This the ornithological student of the living bird will greatly deplore.

What, then, can we do to prevent so undesirable a *contretemps*? The utmost we can do will only partially meet the case, and, if there be any hesitation or allowing the matter to slide, the day is not far distant when Australian birds will only be seen at certain Zoos.

The position ought to be faced at once, and the utmost use made of present stock, so that as many species as possible may be perpetuated in our aviaries.

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* Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelia*).

There must be no selfish clinging to present stock, so that any given aviculturist may be the longest to retain any given species in his aviaries!

Persistent inbreeding can only end in the ultimate extinction of species in any given aviary, and, apparently, new blood can only come by an organised system of exchange between aviculturists.

How, then, can some practical scheme be started at once, so that the utmost may be done with the present stock in English aviaries.

It appears to us that, as a society, we cannot do little more than influence the members of our own society, and that procedure should be somewhat on the following lines:

(1) There must be no delay, and a commencement should be made at once, so as to profit therefrom during this (1921) season.

(2) There must be a sort of stocktaking, and members should send in a list of ALL SPECIES of Australian birds (pairs and odd birds) they possess; and a register be made of same.

(3) Some system of exchange should be framed, so that possessors of single breeding pairs may not only be able to have unrelated pairs to increase their own stock, but also similar pairs for sale.

(4) Odd birds should not be wasted, but some arrangement made, whereby sales or loans may be effected· so that they may be effectively used for breeding purposes.

(5) A committee of 5 or 6 members of the Council could easily be formed to have sole charge of the matter, and to be at the service of the members, both for advice and the carrying out of any scheme which may be framed.

It appears to us that the matter brooks of no delay, and the first step apparently is the compilation of a register of Australian birds at present in the hands of our members.

We shall be glad to have our members' views and suggestions upon this matter.

If we are alive to our opportunity it appears to us that many species of parrakeets and grassfinches, at any rate, may be perpetuated in our aviaries.

Let the matter slide, either from slackness, indifference or any other cause, and it is apparent, from what occurred during the war with the common and freely breeding Zebra Finch, that present stock will very soon die out and be beyond replace.

We can profitably use some of our space on so practical a topic, but what is wanted is discussion and suggestion that shall result in some practical working scheme.

We await your views.

Honours for our Members.—We are pleased to note that three of our members, as the possessors or breeders of rare birds, have been awarded the medal of *La Société d'acclimatation de France*, as follows:

Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke.
Mrs. Burgess.
A. Ezra.

The following were the recipients of the medal in pre-war times:

Duchess of Bedford.
Mrs. Johnstone.
Sir E. Loder.
Sir. W. Ingram.
H. D. Astley.
E. J. Brook.
W. Shore Baily.
H. St. Quinton.

Pink-sided Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*): We think a near variety, *J. hyemalis*, has been successfully bred at the London Zoo, and, though it is very seldom that Juncos reach the English bird market, the following notes, culled from *The Condor* for Sept.-Oct. 1920, will prove of interest. The notes are by M. P. Skinner, and he states that this species is common in the forests of Yellowstone Park, frequenting not only the small open spaces that are scattered through the woods, but are also met with where the trees stand thick and dark. Much of their time is spent on the ground cheeping cheerfully, and their "tingling little warble" of a song is untiringly uttered from mid-April to end of July. Their food is grain and weed seeds, also insects. They begin to pair off in early May, and by the end of the month all are mated. Nests have been found constructed of grasses, lined with finer material; another was constructed of pine needles and vegetable stems. They mostly build at a low elevation from ground level up to about seven feet. The eggs are buffy blotched with brown.

One episode we quote *in extenso*:—" On Aug. 3, near
" Malpariso Lake, at 8,500ft. altitude, a female fluttered
" away, with pretended broken wing, from her nest in a hole
" in the ground under a bunch of lupines, about 60ft. from the
" nearest tree or shrub.' The hole was lined with vegetable
" fibres and contained three babies, just hatched and with eyes
" not yet opened. The next day I found them covered with a
" thin growth of long black down. The mother kept to the
" nest most of the time, but I observed the father hunting
" through the grass in the vicinity more than once. The
" babies remained in the nest about two weeks."

Young have been seen to fly as early as the end of June at low elevations, but higher up have been seen in the same stage as late as Aug. 12.

Regularly, as early as mid-August, they congregate in small flocks.

◆

Correspondence.

SIR,—I should be glad to hear from any breeder of Long-tailed Grassfinches willing to make an exchange of some of their young birds (either sex), so as to secure unrelated pairs for this season's breeding.

Maerbeck, New Malden, Surrey. R. N. GIBBARD.

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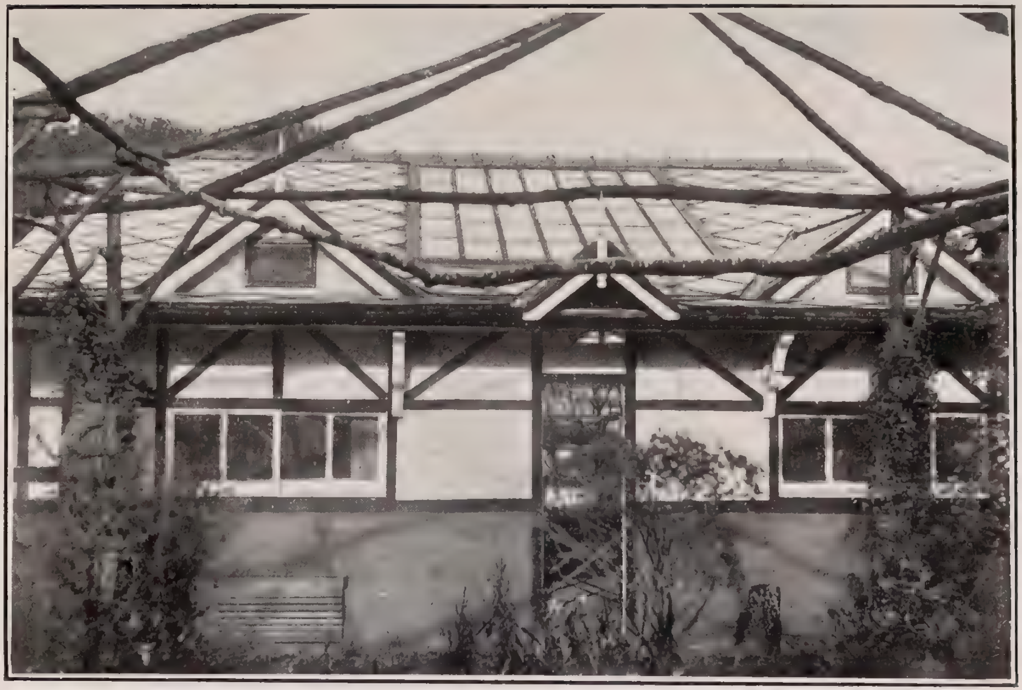
Post Mortem Reports.

ZEBRA FINCH (♂): T. O. Harrison, Sunderland.—This bird died of double pneumonia. This can be a very acute disease, and is quite compatible with apparent perfect health on the day preceding death.

ZEBRA FINCH (♀): Miss D. E. Pithie, Southsea.—Congestion of the lungs was the cause of death following injuries to the head. The bird being injured would be less able to resist infection than healthy.

NATH. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist,



Front of Birdroom, showing verandah—Mr. Bright's Aviaries.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

My New Aviaries.

BY H. E. BRIGHT.

In 1919, owing to a change of residence, I had to dismantle my aviaries at Cressington and re-erect in some form at Woolton. In the end it amounted to putting up new ones, the old aviaries being merely just so much material towards them.

In their erection I have done my best to correct the faults which experience had pointed out to me in the old aviaries, to meet the requirements of this N.W. locality.

The aviaries were completed and in use during the past season.

I had always needed a good Birdroom for the winter housing of birds and other uses, acclimatising, etc. This I have provided for, and its frontage looks into my largest aviary —No. 1.

Three photos illustrate the birdroom, one showing the front elevation; the other two figure the whole of the interior arrangement.

The illustrations render further description unnecessary, save to state the height, which is 16ft. at ridge. It is divided into two halves.

One half the birdroom is used as a shelter for No. 1 aviary, though certain birds get permanent or temporary quarters in the inner flights which run across one end of this shelter.

The other half contains:

pair Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*)

pair Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*)
cock Blossom-headed Parrakeet (*Palaeornis cyanocephala*)

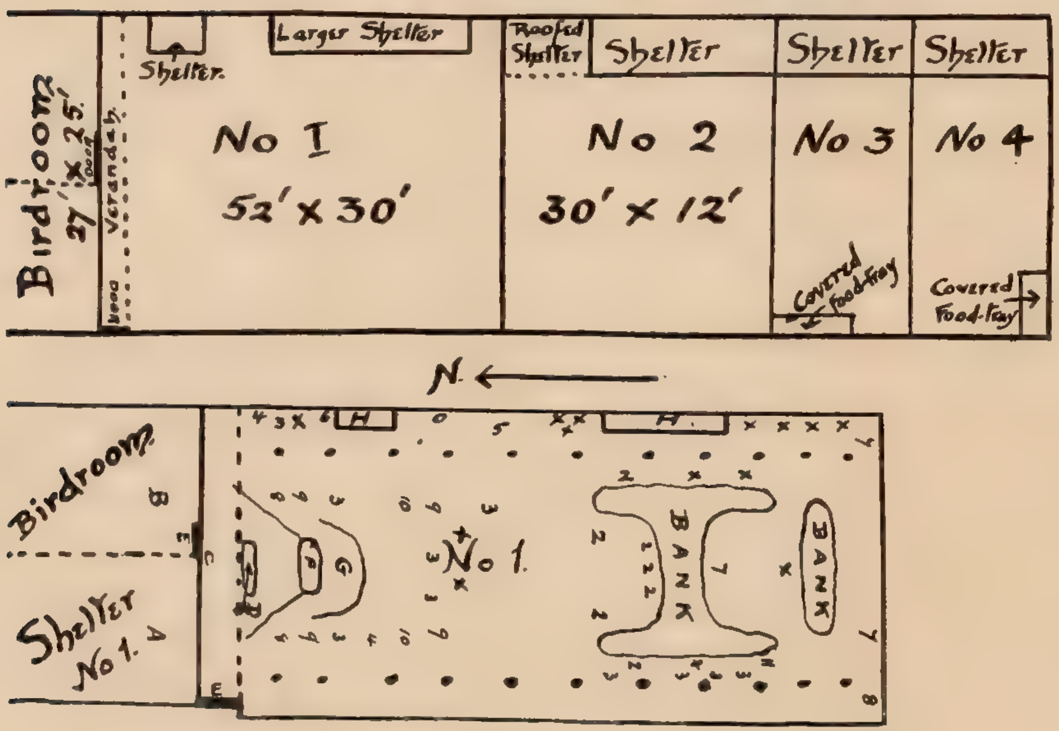
They all dwell amicably together and seem quite happy.

Interior of Shelter-Shed, No. 1 Aviary. Mr. Bright's Aviaries.

No. 1 Aviary.—Two photo-reproductions give an idea of the general appearance of this, my largest flight, which is 52ft. x 30ft. x 16ft. high at ridge. These were taken from the tiled path in front of Bird-room, which forms one side of the flight, the roof of which has an overhang of 3ft. along its entire length. Under this I have a fall-seat, where I can sit and watch the birds. The first set of posts form a sort of clear passage in front of the two outside shelters, and it is a treat to see the birds race up the full length and swing round into the open space at the end and back along the other side.

The Ground Plans and photo-reproductions render further details futile.

GROUND PLAN. Mr. Bright's Aviaries.


Larger Shelter
Shelter
Roofed Shelter
Shelter
Shelter
Shelter
Birdroom 27' x 25'
Verandah
No I
52' x 30'
No 2
30' x 12'
No 3
No 4
Covered Food-tray
Covered Food-tray
N.
Birdroom
B
Shelter No 1.
A
H
H
No 1.
G
F
C
E
E
BANK
BANK

KEY TO GROUND DIAGRAM, NO. 1 AVIARY.

A. Half of Birdroom-shed used as shelter for No. 1 aviary.

B. Half of Birdroom-shed used as separate birdroom.

C. Verandah with tiled floor, 3½ft. wide.

D. Bath.

E.E. Doors.

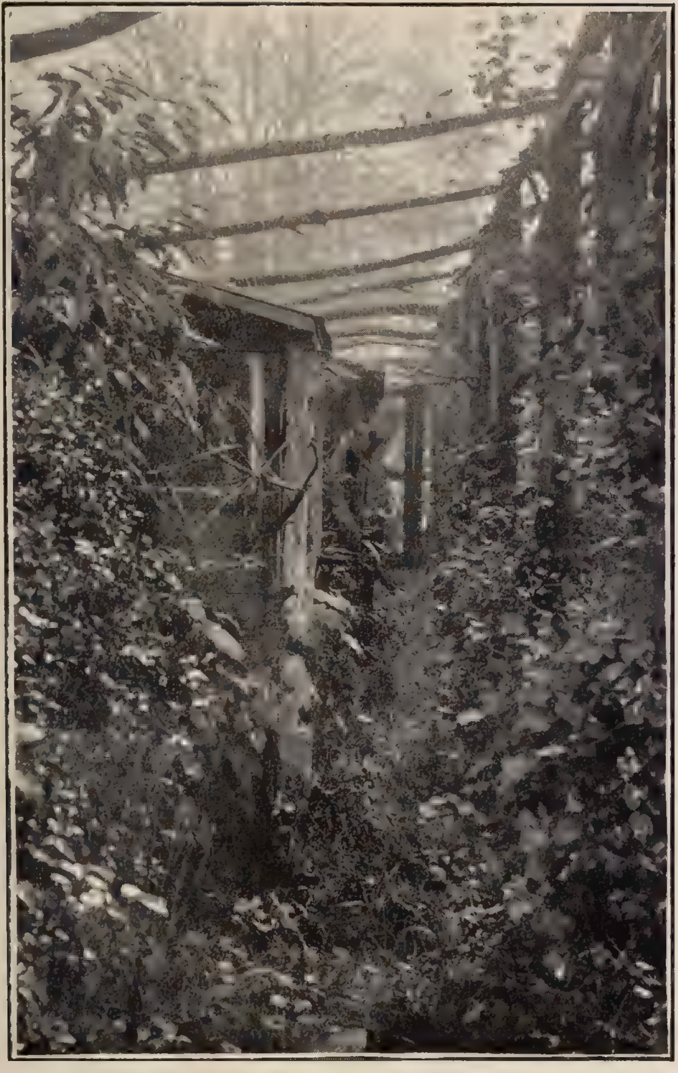
F. Small pit with stone sink at bottom, planted with Bullrushes and Reeds.

G. Rockery with ferns, falling slope about 4ft. to pit.

H.H. Outside shelters.

●. Inner standards supporting roof, with climbers, hops, etc.

O. Cherry Tree.
X. Privet Bushes.
2. Elder Bushes.
3. Golden Privet
4 Holly.
5. Bamboos.
6. Fruit Trees.
7. Wild Rose.
8. Box Trees.
9. Laurel Bushes.
10. Yew Trees
11. Beech.



Section of No. 1 Aviary, showing clear passage for flight in front of the two outside shelters. Mr. Bright's Aviaries.

This aviary contains:

pair Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)
pair Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*)
pair Yellow-billed Cardinals (*Paroaria capitata*)
2 ♂ and 1 ♀ Ground Grosbeaks (*species?*)
pair Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca cyanea*)
pair Small Grosbeaks. cock black head and neck and red-brown underparts.*
pair Lined Finches (*Spermophila lineola*)
pair White-throated Finches (*S. albigularis*)
1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Nonpareil Buntings (*Cyanospiza ciris*)
1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Rock Buntings (*Fringillaria tahapisi*)
pair Golden-breasted Buntings (*F. flaviventris*)
pair Red-breasted Starlings (*Leistes guianensis*)
pair Scarlet Tanagers (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*)
pair Baltimore Hangnests (*Icterus galbula*)
pair Blue Robins (*Sialia sialis*)
pair Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*)
2 or 3 pairs Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*)
2 or 3 pairs Lavender Finches (*Lagonosticta caerulescens*)
2 or 3 pairs Violet-eared Waxbill (*Granatina granatina*)
2 or 3 pairs Golden-breasted Waxbills (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*)
2 or 3 pairs Black-cheeked Waxbills (*Estrilda erythronota*)
2 or 3 pairs Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*Sporaeginthus melpodus*)
2 or 3 pairs Blue-breasted Waxbills (*Estrilda angolensis*)
2 pairs Sydney Waxbills (*Ægintha temporalis*)
2 or 3 pairs Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*)
3 pairs Bearded Tits (*Panurus biarmicus*)
3 pairs Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*)
3 pairs Masked Grassfinches (*P. personata*)
1 pair Diamond Finches (*Steganopleura guttata*)
1 pair Chestnut-breasted Finches (*Munia castaneithorax*)
A crowd of Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*)
5 ♂ and a number of Orange Weavers (*Pyromelana franciscana*) and ♀
Crimson-crowned Weavers (*P. flammiceps*)
pair Napoleon Weavers (*P. afra*)
pair Rufous-necked Weavers (*Hyphantornis cucullatus*)
pair Luteola Weavers (*Hyphantornis luteola?*)
pairs Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*)
pair Queen Whydahs (*Vidua regia*)
pair Bronze Mannikins (*Spermestes cucullata*)
pair Magpie Mannikins (*Amauresthes fringilloides*)
pair Smith's Ground Doves (
pair Geoffroy's Doves (*Peristera geoffroyi*)
4 pairs Masked Doves (*Oena capensis*)
pair Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*)
pair Peaceful Doves (*G. tranquilla*)

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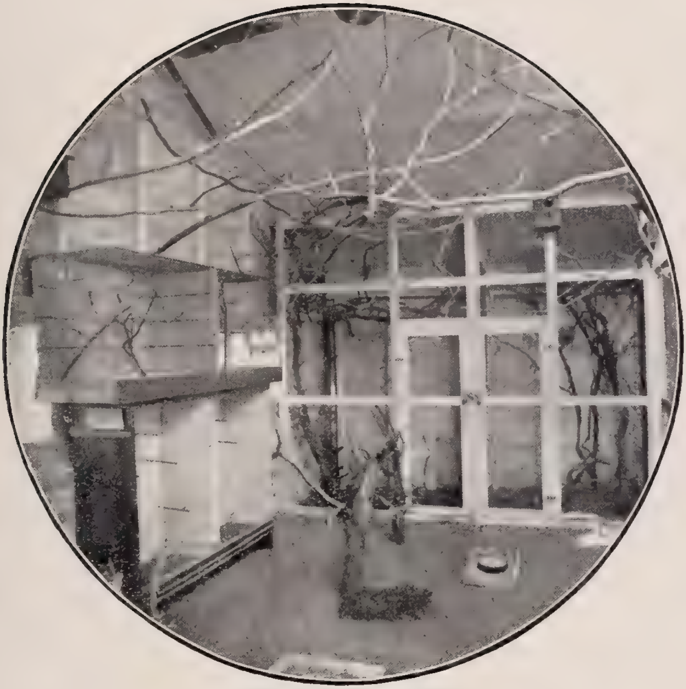
* Probably the Torrid Finch (*Orizoborus torridus*).—Ed.



Birdroom Interior.—Mr. Bright's Aviaries.

There are also the following odd birds:

♀ Pileated Finch (*Coryphospingus pileata*)
♂ Archbishop Tanager (*Tanagra ornata*)
♂ Parrot Finch (*Erythrura psittacea*)
Red Sparrow (*species?*)
Yellow Sparrow (*Passer luteola*)
New Caledonia White-headed Mannikin
Hybrid Silverbill (*Aidemosyne cantans*) × Chestnut-breasted Finch (*Munia castancithorax*)—these mated to hen Silverbills have nested, but no young have been reared.
♀ Hybrid Him. Siskin (*Hypacanthis spinoides*) × Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*) mated with a ♂ Greenfinch, and two young birds were successfully reared.

All the above birds have been kept out through this winter, but they get the use of one half the birdroom and the two outside shelters.

The Migratory Thrushes (American Thrushes) nested twice and successfully reared to maturity eight young birds.

The Fox Sparrows built a nest of sticks, twigs, and hay at the bottom of an elder bush, but nothing came of it.

The Ground Grosbeaks built two nests, low down in small shrubs. The nests were mostly grass and hay, but no young were reared.

The Luteola Weavers had two, if not three, lots of young, but they did not fully rear any. One brood were fully fledged and flew, but succumbed during heavy rain. They built in holly and privet.

A small pair of Grosbeaks, of which I do not know the name, built a tiny cup-shaped nest, but there was no trace of anything further.

Golden-breasted Waxbills nested and hatched out young, but they did not fully rear them.

Scarlet Tanagers also nested, but it was another disappointment, and again I have to write no result.

Against all these failures the following did fairly well, but I certainly did not get anything like my usual run of successful nests.—I attribute this to the bad weather and the birds being in strange quarters.

Long-tailed Grassfinches nested freely, but only a few young birds were fully reared.

Diamond Doves nested and successfully brought up four youngsters. The Masked Doves successfully reared two young birds. Geoffroy's Doves also nested and fully reared four young birds.

Green Cardinals nested and reared four youngsters to maturity.

Zebra Finches did well, and quite a crowd of young birds have been successfully reared.

View through centre of No. 1 Flight. Mr. Bright's Aviaries.

There were other disappointments; Smith's Ground Doves laid several clutches of eggs, but did not hatch any out. In one of the birdroom flights the Blue Jays built a good nest, but the hen died egg-bound, with her second egg partly passed. Quite late in the season the Baltimore Hangnests started to play at nesting, so these may start properly this spring.

There were plenty of interesting episodes, but 1920 was certainly one of my worst seasons as regards the rearing of young.

The ground of this aviary is not level, and purposely so; it consists of level places, some large banks and small raised lines of ground, which guide the surface water into a tiny pit, which is the lowest spot in the aviary, with a large stone sink at the bottom, which holds the water; I have planted reeds and bullrushes. The back and sides of the pit are built up of stones, the front opens out, and rises to ground level in a steep slope. The photos and ground diagrams give a good idea of the arrangement, but where space permitted I planted the privet in clumps—one large tall bush in the centre with smaller ones around it.

(*To be concluded*).

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Field Notes from Mashonaland.

By Guy Falkner, F.Z.S.

Concluded from page 43.

Owls: Among the commonest birds of the veldt are "Brown Owls," * so called locally; I do not know their correct name. They are nearly as big as an Eagle-Owl, but with white on the tips of the feathers, shading to buff in some individuals. They hardly ever perch; only once have I seen one do so and that was on a chimney. They spend the greater part of the day crouching in "forms" after the manner of a hare; occasionally they may be seen by daylight, but this is very rare. Towards dusk they get very busy "hawking" for flying ants; they fly very fast, often making very quick turns and steep "banks," reminding one more of swallows than owls. They breed from June to July, and lay two white eggs in a slight depression on the veldt, generally near a spruit. I was never lucky enough to procure a nestling, or nestlings rather, as it would have been very interesting having a hand-reared pair; they get so tame, and, had they survived the journey back to England they could always have been turned loose, with, be it confessed, many doubts as to whether their addition to the avifauna of Great Britain would be an unmixed blessing.

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* Probably the Spotted Eagle-Owl (*Bubo maculosa*).—Ed.

GUINEA-FOWL: The wild guinea-fowl are plentiful again now. Two years ago, I believe, they died off in thousands, from the information I gathered from a Dutch farmer, of a sort of diphtheria. The adults are very shy, and when they are flushed this time of year (Jan.—Feb.) they usually go through the performance of feigning a broken leg or wing, as the second brood of chickens are almost sure to be with them. The young at first have bright coral-pink beaks and legs, which, as they grow older, turn to horn-colour as regards the beak, and red-brown on the legs. With their bright yellow-ochre body-colouring and sable stripes and spots, the chicks are most attractive little people, and can run about and feed themselves directly they have dried off after hatching—precocious little infants! Their food consists of white ants (not "eggs"), beetles, and insects of various species. One beetle of dark steel-blue is a great favourite, and, as it is protected with a very tough coat of armour, is hardly ever killed outright, but instead is worried like a rat by the entire brood before the luckless creature is eventually devoured. Moths, grass seeds, and crushed mealies were much appreciated by a brood I reared under a hen. They seemed to relish the crushed mealies more than anything at first, but, as they grew older, got more carnivorous in their habits until mealies were rarely, if ever, eaten at all. They are birds that mature very quickly and soon get their full wings; at the age of three weeks it would be quite impossible to catch a wild one by chasing it. They much appreciate mice and lizards as they grow older, and an adult will kill a mouse with one blow of its powerful beak. They are terrible fighters, and few people try to domesticate them on account of the poultry, of which, if they were not checked by being kept in a wire run, they would very soon kill off the entire stock.

One day, knowing I was always open to buy live creatures which were brought to me unhurt, one of the shepherds brought in a nest of small finches; the nest was the size of a wren's, but built entirely of grass. It was found in a thorn tree right out on the veldt, standing quite alone; it reminded me of a miniature sparrow's nest. I never found out what species these small finches were. The nest contained five youngsters, but I had very bad luck with them, in spite of the fact that they were fed every three-quarters of an hour all through the night. To start with, the cat got three. One, when old enough to fly, elected to take a trial flight over the veldt one day when I was out, and although all the "boys" were turned out to hunt for it, and though it was "marked down" by one of them, it was never seen again, and I suppose died of starvation, poor little mite. The other reached maturity, much to my delight, but eventually escaped, so I only saw it in juvenile plumage, which was mud-coloured above, with chestnut breast and yellow-ochre flanks, each feather tipped with white and with a dark brown pencilled edging; bill black; legs flesh-colour; pale yellow-ochre eyebrows, and, most curious of all, three sky-blue globular formations at the base of the beak, about the size of a rape seed. When mature it was the size of a wren. It, along with its companion which flew away, was reared on scrambled egg and crumbled Albert biscuit. The fledglings were fed every ten minutes during the daytime, and every forty-five minutes during the night. One must have something round and nest-like to rear small birds in, and I found an old hat as good as anything, filled with clean hay and a lid of cotton wool. One must have something round so that they get the full benefit of the heat of each other's bodies—a square box is useless as they often sulk in corners and eventually die from cold—which I found to my cost.

Just immediately round the house where I was living in Southern Rhodesia the place was a desert as far as one could see, for with the exception of thirty or so mulberry trees, a few blue gums, and a small plantation of orange, lemon, and peach trees there is not a tree to be seen. In spite of this these few trees team with interesting birds. A flock of thirty or so Glossy Starlings, shining mauve, green, and blue; they systematically work from one end of the mulberry trees to the other, and then back again for any insect they can find; nothing indeed seems to come amiss to them. Great was my excitement one morning when a Black-headed Oriole appeared with the Starlings. The bird had a very racy, graceful outline, not being so stocky in form as the Starlings. It was in perfect plumage. Head black; body orange; wings black, spotted with white; tail-feathers and scapulars greenish-yellow; the crowning touch of colour being the cherry-red bill, and skin of same colour round the eyes; legs dark red. As far as I could make out through the glass the eyes were either black or very deep brown. It was a very shy bird, with a low whistle of two notes, frequently repeated rapidly. It seemed very restless and was even more diligent in its search for food in the mulberry trees than the Glossy Starlings, in whose company it both arrived and departed for several days in succession. Other birds which frequent the garden (so called!!) are half a dozen little parroquets of a sage-green colour. The male bird has a brick-red face; they are not noisy as far as the parrot-tribe go, and have rather a pleasant little chatter, which is kept up incessantly, but, it must be confessed they have an *appalling* shriek when frightened, nevertheless they are delightful little birds to watch and are very tame if left alone; in fact too tame, as they take heavy toll of the peach buds and refuse to fly away until one gets quite close to them, and even then only flit, with their peculiar snipe-like flight, to another peach tree only a few yards away, and start nibbling off them almost as soon as they have settled.

MASKED DOVES: The little Masked Ground Doves (*Oena capensis*) abound everywhere; pretty little chaps these, with their black masks, orange beaks and grey uniform. Workers for their living, too, for all day they are running about hunting for various seeds. It surprises me that these little mites, not as big as a thrush, can and do swallow large mealies (Indian corn) with the greatest ease; rice too, and repoko seed, also "Dahas," form a good portion of their diet. In August they congregate in flocks of twelve to thirty, and about the middle of September they usually break up the flock and pair off. Quite a number by the way only have one egg instead of the usual couple of the *Columbidæ*. With their long pointed tails, when flying, they remind one of parroquets. They usually take a *siesta* in the middle of the day, lying on their sides with a wing outspread like a quail.

CORDON BLEUS: Quite a number of little Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*) visit the orange trees to prey on a species of minute spider. Lovely little birds are these, seen thus, their blue breasts showing very distinctly; they are usually called by the colonists "Blue Tits" and are often seen in cages, fed, as a rule, on crushed mealies, which they apparently thrive on for years, with no other item to their dietary to vary the monotony of a plain diet and captive existence.

OSTRICHES: Perhaps the birds one sees least of are the Ostriches; one sometimes sees half a dozen hens and a cock, but they grow more scarce every day; unless protected they are destroyed on account of their breaking down the wire fences. They are, of course, plentiful on the Central Estates (a preserve), and in the wilder parts of Mashonaland. I caught sight of three hens and a cock near the house one day; evidently they had broken down the boundary fence, or got through somehow. They let me get within five hundred yards or so, but trotted off at a good pace directly they thought I was within rifle shot.

MOUND ROBIN: A very curious and common bird round here (Mashonaland) is the "Mound Robin." About the size of a robin—body, wings and tail brown, the latter with white bar and black tips; head and breast white; mask black. It seems to spend most of its time on the ant heaps at this time of year (August), looking for a suitable ant heap to nest in. In all its actions it resembles a robin. As a mocking-bird it has no equal, mimicking everything from the Cordon Bleu's low twitter to the sharp shriek of the brown plover. They are very amusing birds to watch while nesting operations are going on. The hen disappears down the ant-hill to look for a suitable nesting site, every few minutes popping her head out at the top like a jack-in-the-box. The cock meanwhile goes through his varied song of every known Rhodesian bird call-note, to the squeak of the bucket being drawn from the well. Sometimes he suddenly stops his song and soars slowly in long spiral curves up into the sky until he becomes a mere speck, then slowly planing down to earth again, also spirally with outspread tail like a miniature parachute, singing lustily sometimes, and at others waiting until he lands before starting his imitation song of the other birds.

One bird I do not think I have mentioned is, I should imagine, a species of Greenfinch. Its plumage is bright emerald-green, unrelieved by any other colour except on the tips of the wings, which are dark olive-green, and the vent very nearly yellow; beak, legs and feet flesh-colour. It is very partial to sunflower seed, which it cracks with its very powerful beak. They are very active birds and climb all over the sunflower heads for the ripe seeds, which they crack with great rapidity.

PALM DOVE: One day one of the "boys" brought me in a baby Palm Dove (*Turtur senegalensis*) all whispering squeaks and blue porcupine quills, so hideous, but a very attractive little devil nevertheless. I had a restless seven nights, feeding it every two hours with chewed bread and mealies (Indian corn) soaked in milk. Luckily I had a supply of canary seed, and with that and rice it was successfully reared, and now resides, also a Black-shouldered Kite, at the London Zoo.

The wild Barbary Doves are, I think, the commonest birds of all. They are always the first birds at daybreak to herald a new day, in fact they "coo" most of the night, whether it be moonlight or not, and one wonders when they sleep. They are very odd birds temperamentally these Barbary Doves, one pair (out of fifteen birds which were caught fully adult) feeding out of my hands on mealies twenty-four hours after they were caught. This pair of birds are now safely lodged at the London Zoo. The others, caught at same time, were so wild that I gave them their liberty again. They are most attractive birds in their soft colouring, with their pinkish breasts and French Grey body, wings and tail; under side of tail white tipped with black; broad neck band black, edged with white; beak horn-colour; legs dusky red (coral-red in young birds, and also adults directly after the moult); eyes brown with black pupil. They are decidedly handsome birds. The young, unlike the domestic Barbary dove, have the black collar when they leave the nest.*

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* A young domestic Barbary Dove left the nest in July 1920 in my aviary, and was in possession of the black ring when it did so.—ED.

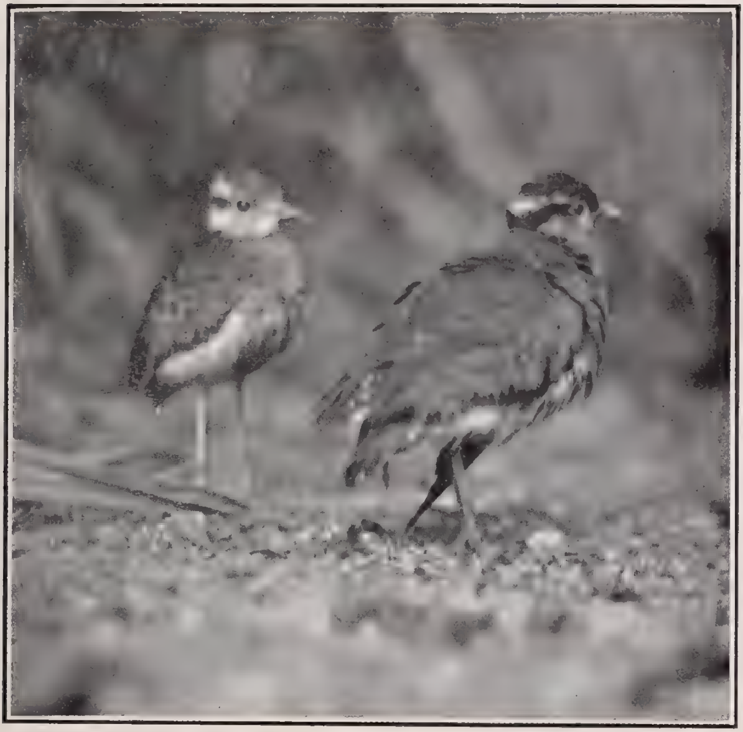

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Temminck's Coursers.
Adult ♀ and juvenile.

The Senegal Courser.

By W. Shore Baily.

Early last autumn I was offered, by Mr. Hamlyn, a pair of South African Plovers. These, on arrival, proved to be Temminck's Courser, or Sand Plover, a bird found pretty generally throughout Africa. They are pretty little birds, and this particular pair were engagingly tame and confiding. One was adult and the other a bird of the year. Unfortunately the old bird was in a very weak and ailing condition, and was evidently suffering from some organic disease. The weather at the time of their arrival was fine and warm, so I turned them into an outdoor aviary, and here, for a time, they seemed very happy, spending their time basking in the sun, and dashing after small insects, which they were very expert in catching; but as the nights got colder the ailing bird got weaker, so I brought them into my indoor bird-room, where I had a large cage available

Temminck's Courser (adult female).

for them, but after a few weeks, in spite of every care and attention, the sick bird died. It proved on dissection to be a hen, and well developed eggs were found in the ovary.

In their deportment they very closely resemble our Ringed Plover. The quick, short run, followed by the bowing of the head and the flirting of the tail, is particularly noticeable.

In size they are about equal to our Turnstone, but are considerably longer on the leg. The following is their description:—Forehead and crown rich rufus, followed by a black nape spot, the whole surrounded by a pale rufous eyebrow, which becomes white posteriorly; below this again is a black line, running from behind the eye through the ear coverts and

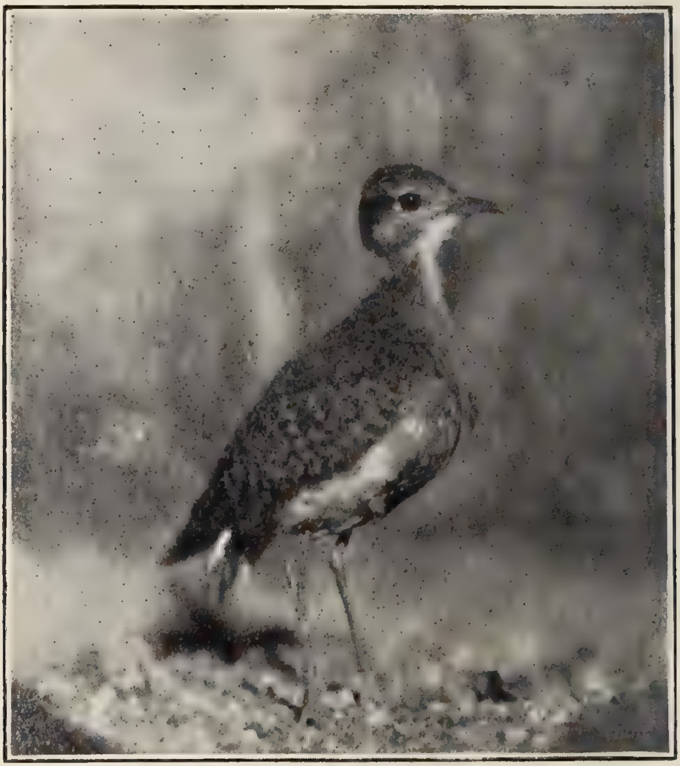

Photo W. Shore Baily.
Temminck's Courser (juvenile).

meeting its fellow on the nape; upper-surface brown with an ashy tinge; primaries and primary-coverts black; secondaries browner with wedge-shaped white tips; central tail-feathers like the back, outer ones with a subterminal black spot and white or rusty-white tips; the outer pair white on the outer-web throughout; below: the chin, flanks, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white; breast rufous-brown with a patch of black in lower centre; under wing-coverts also black.

The young bird very closely resembles the young of the Golden Plover. I cannot find much about their wild life, but writing of the nearly allied *C. rufus*, another African species, Mr. Fitzsimons says:

> "This Courser makes its appearance at Maritzburg in the winter, when the grass has been burnt off, and feeds on the roasted insects. It is generally seen in couples and occasionally as many as half a dozen may be seen together. It runs with great swiftness, making a dash for about 20 yards and then will bob itself up and down repeatedly, and sway itself from side to side. It will not take wing unless compelled. I have never met with it here in summer."

I have had my young bird now four months, and it has not yet commenced to change colour.

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Visits to Members' Aviaries,

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

MRS. BURGESS' BIRDROOM AND BIRDS.

On Saturday, February 19th, I paid a flying visit to see Mrs. Burgess' fine collection of birds. Mrs. Burgess is a semi-invalid, so her birds have to be housed indoors; I think I am correct in stating that she has no outdoor aviaries, at least I neither saw nor heard of any while there.

The day was dull, and my stay was very short, as I wished to be back in London the same night, so that, I fear, I shall be unable to do justice to this collection of uncommon and rare birds—over two hundred in number—all housed in a large, well-lighted room, with a south aspect, and though the room was large and lofty, it certainly contained a large number of birds, including many frugivorous and pollen eating (syrup-fed) species; yet so perfect were the arrangements and attendance that the air was perfectly sweet, and no trace of any birdy-odour, though two (? three) radiators (either gas or electric) were going. I should add that the room had an excellent electric light installation, and any part thereof could be brilliantly illuminated at will. Two large windows admitted ample light and sun during the hours of daylight.

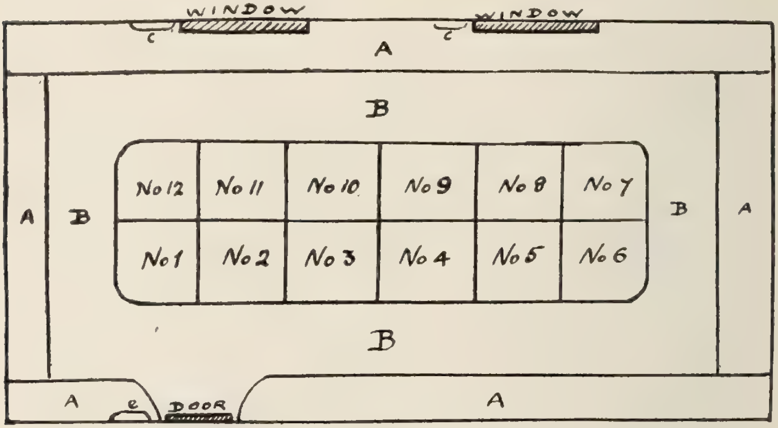

Diagram of Mrs. Burgess' Birdroom—Not to scale.

A. Cages or Narrow flights.

B. Passage between staging and central flights.

C. Radiators.

1 to 12 Group of flights, each approx. 6ft. x 4ft. x 15ft. high.

I only need add to diagram, that the group of flights are constructed of light wood framing and wire-netting, but all the internal partitions are of light wood and rough rolled glass, so that the birds in one division cannot see those in the next; an excellent arrangement, as one or two divisions are given up to breeding Blue Budgerigars. I may state that I commenced viewing the birds at No. 1 flight and continued on to No. 12, then commencing at right of door I noted the birds in cages and flights round the walls of the room.

There being so many birds to note and comment upon, my notes were of the roughest and scantiest character possible, and, I am relying upon mental notes largely in penning this description.

No. 1. Here were 8 pairs of light Blue Budgerigars, all with more than the normal amount of white in their plumage. They were put together for nesting and were in breeding condition—a really fine lot.

No. 2. In this flight were quite a mixed lot, and considering the space one marvelled that such species lived together in amity, yet apparently they were perfectly happy and contented.

Australian Catbird (*Ailuroedus crassirostris*).
Le Vaillent's Barbet (*Trachyphonus cafer*).
1 pair Pheasant-Crows (*Centropus sinensis*).
Blue-cheeked Barbet (*Cyanops asiatica*).
♂ Satin Bower-bird (*Ptilorhynchus violaceus*).

No. 3. Here were quite a crowd of small Finches and Waxbills, etc., and I had not time to note all the species—from 50-60 birds were in this flight:

Java Sparrows (White and Grey)—*Munia oryzivora*.
Pair Long-tailed Tits (*Acredula caudata*).
Pair Bearded Tits (*Panurus biarmicus*).
Red-cheeked Coley (*Colius erythromelon*).
Violet Tanager (*Euphonia violacea*).
White-cheeked Finch-Larks (*Pyrrhulauda leucotis*).
Ploecine Finches, many species.
Weavers—various species.
Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*).

No. 4. Here were a group of Parrots, all in immaculate condition, and living together in perfect amity.

Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*).
Pennant's Parrakeet (*Platycercus elegans*).
Pair Alexandrine Parrakeets (*Paloernis alexandrina*).
Mealy Rosella Parrakeet (*Platycercus pallidiceps*).
♂ King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*).
Mueller's Parrot (*Tanygnathus muelleri*).
Roseate Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*).

No. 5. The birds in this flight made a fine display, variety, colour and character being well represented—a very interesting and beautiful lot Again one marvelled at the amity, happiness and contentment that marked the keeping together such diversified species.

Pekin Robins (*Liothrix luteus*).
American Catbird (*Mimus carolinensis*).
Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flaviventris*).
2 ♂ Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
♂ Virginian Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
Blue Robin (*Sialia sialis*).
Military Starlings (*Trupialis militaris*).
♂ Scarlet Tanager (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*).
♂ Palm Tanager (*Tanagra palmarum*).
♂ Archbishop Tanager (*T. ornata*).
♂ Blue Tanager (*T. episcopus*).
♀ Black Tanager (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*).
Golden Oriole (*Oriolus galbula*).
♂ Black-headed Siskin (*Chrysomitris tristis*).
♂ Nonpareil Bunting (*Cyanospiza ciris*).

No. 6. Another crowd of diversified species, most of which were fairly recent arrivals, some in juvenile plumage, and others in the intermediate stage, or partly through the change to adult plumage. Some of the Glossy Starlings were adult and simply gorgeous.

Green Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis australis*).
Purple Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis purpureus*).
Pied Blackbird (*Merula merula*).
Chestnut-winged Glossy Starling (*Amydrus morio*?).
Pied Barbet (*Pognorhynchus leucomelas*)
Pair Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul*).
Long-tailed Glossy Starlings (*Lamprotornis caudatus*).
Pied Glossy Starlings (*Spreo bicolor*).

No. 7. A mixture of Parrots and Parrakeets—all very fit, and in fine plumage.

Pair Senegal Parrots (*Poecephalus senegalensis*).
5 Jendaya Parrakeets (*Conurus jendaya*)—3 in juvenile plumage.
Bahama Amazon (*Chrysotis bahamenis*).

No. 8. Again one wondered at the amity with which the following lived together in their somewhat confined quarters.

Pair Spot-billed Toucans (*Selenidera maculirostris*).
Hill Mynah (*Eulabes intermedia*).
Pileated Jay (*Cyanocorax pileatus*).
Wandering Tree-Pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*).

No. 9. This flight contained 16 Blue, 8 Blue, and 8 blue-bred Green Budgerigars; put up for breeding—all were in lovely colour and breeding condition—Blues a grand lot.

No. 10. Another mixed lot of parrakeets, whose tight and silky plumage bespoke eloquently that no sparring went on among them—their condition was superb ("spic and span.")

Pair Crimson-wing Parrakeets (*Ptistes erythropterus*).
Port Lincoln Parrakeet (*Barnardius zonarius*).
Uvaean Parrakeets (*Nymphicus uvaeensis*).
Rock Grass Parrakeets (*Neophema petrophila*).

No. 11. Given up to a magnificent Yellow-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis ochrocephala*), a talented talker and mimic, finger tame, a most interesting and amusing bird. He kept up a continuous protest against our bad-taste while we were viewing the other birds.

No. 12. Another mixed lot of *psittaci*, to which the same applies—amity, happiness and contentment reigned supreme, even the Prince Lucien Conures, a fairly recent addition and small in comparison to their fellow captives, were unmolested.

Black-headed Conure (*Conurus nenday*).
Pair Ring-necked Parrakeets (*Palaeornis torquatus*).
Pair Barnard's Parrakeets (*Barnardius barnardi*).
Pair Patagonian Conures (*Cyanolyseus patagonus*).
Pair Moustache Parrakeets (*Palaeornis fasciatus*).
Pair Prince Lucien Conures (*Conurus lucieni*).

We now commenced the round of wall cages and flights, starting at left-hand corner of the room.

In a narrow flight, some 4ft. x 1½ft. x 4½ft. high, were a pair of Black-capped Lories (*Lorius lory*), an exquisite pair of birds, with crimson-red bodies, black crown, hind-neck and breast blue. In perfect feather and health.

The next flight contained 2 pale Olive Budgerigars (♂) paired with Blue hens. I may remark here that all the forms of *Melopsittacus undulatus* appeared strong and robust, not a weakly looking one among them, and except the Yellows, all contained Blue-blood.

Adjoining was a cage containing a pure White Canary (♂) paired to a white-bred Cinnamon hen - a beautiful pair.

In another flight were a number of various coloured Budgerigars, including a lovely pair of dark Olives, also fine pairs of Cream-Yellows, Apple-Green Yellows, and light Olives—an interesting lot of distinct colour forms.

Next were an exquisite pair of Red-collared Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*), a tame pair of birds, showing signs of a desire to go to nest, judging by their fondness for the interior of their log-nest. Tame and in perfect feather.

Next was a large cage containing a Cuban Trogon (*Prionotelus temnurus*). This bird had not moulted and was not as yet in full adult colouration, and was the only bird in the collection to which "loose and rough feather" applied.

The next flight contained 3 Varied Lorikeets (*Ptilosclera versicolor*), a species which I hardly expected to see in the flesh again, and, which I envied Mrs. Burgess the possession of more than any other birds in the collection, and there were many rarities.

Next was a large cage, in front of the window, containing a Gold and Green Tanager, 3 perfect ♂ Yellow-wing Sugarbirds (*Coereba cyanea*) and an immature Blue Sugarbird (*Dacnis cayana*). A cageful of dainty, fairy-like form and beauty.

Next was a cage containing a single, perfect specimen of the Vernal Hanging-Parrakeet (*Loriculus vernalis*).

Then came a flight containing pairs each of Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*), All Green Parrakeets (*Brotogerys tirica*), White-winged Parrakeets (*B. virescens*), and Tui Parrakeets (*B. tui*). All in fine feather and health.

Next was a cage containing a White-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis albifrons*).

In the adjoining cage, and also in another a little distance away, were fine specimens of the rare Hawk-headed Parrot

(Deroptyus accipitrinus). Both were tame and could be handled with impunity. Mrs. Burgess is fortunate indeed in possessing two specimens of this rare, beautiful, quaint and interesting species.

An uncannily tame, exquisitely beautiful, and almost unique specimen of the White-backed Lory (*Eos fuscata*) greeted us as we paused before the next cage; it could be handled with impunity by a perfect stranger, and was in tight feather and perfect form generally. This rare species is a beautiful blending of nearly every hue of the rainbow, without any harsh contrasts whatever.

In the next cage was a smallish Green Parrot, whose species I did not recognise, and as it was in juvenile plumage I shall attempt to define it at present. It was some 8 inches long, green in colour, mottled with buffish white on the head and hind-neck, washed with purplish at nape, and under tail-coverts of red. There were indications that there would be patches of yellow at some later stage.

In the adjoining cage was a pair of White-cheeked Caiques (*Caica leucogaster*), an exquisite pair of birds, with saffron-yellow heads, green back and wings, and creamy-white underparts—not a feather out of place, and no harsh colour contrasts—a perfect feast of beauty.

In the next cage was the Hawk-headed Parrot already referred to.

Next, in a small flight, were a nice specimen of some species of Red-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis chloronota*?)—colour green with red frontal-band and a patch of same colour at back of eye; and a juvenile Euops Conure (*Conurus euops*).

Last but not least must be mentioned a very fine Black Lory (*Chalcopsittacus ater*). In spite of the funereal colour of its garment this is not by any means a sombrely clad species. Its glistening black plumage, under the play of light, scintillates forth purplish and many other hues, which, together with the red on underside of tail-feathers, make quite a happy colour combination. This bird was in fine form and quite tame.

I find I have omitted to mention in their proper sequence a pair of Jardine's Babblers (*Crateropus jardinii*), a rare and beautiful species.

In one of the sitting-rooms was a cage containing a beautiful specimen of the chastely coloured Queen Alexandra Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandrae*). A finger tame individual and allowed spells of liberty about the room.

This completed our round of the collection, one of which Mrs. Burgess may well be proud.

My remarks on the various colour forms of Budgerigars and the rarer species in the collection I must hold over for another instalment.

(*To be concluded*).

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Attempts at Breeding Albinos.

By A. H. Scott.

Several years ago I promised our editor to write an account of my experiments in breeding Albinos. As circumstances now compel me to give them up for the present, I will describe the (very small) results obtained.

With sparrows alone did I obtain even a small success. A writer in B.N. recently referred to the sparrow as an " avian rat;" but this is scarcely fair.

The rat is an evil, ugly, scurvy, malodorous animal, an animal with cold feet and a cold tail, louse-infested, disease-spreading, egg-stealing, bird-murdering, obscene. There is no ode to rats, only a poem describing how they ate up Bishop Hatto and other abominations.

But the sparrow is friendly, cheerful, and fairly clean; puts us not to shame by superior domestic virtue, yet takes a fair share of his wife's work. He has ever been a companion to prisoners, a consoler of lonely spinsters; and was beloved by Lesbia, and celebrated by Catullus in poetry not high-falutin' perhaps, nor ecstatic, but destined to last as long as any verses inspired by more emotional nightingales and skylarks. A rat indeed!

In 1916 I bought a white hen sparrow, having three brown wing-feathers and normal eyes, but could obtain no cock. This hen nested in a garden aviary, but did not lay. The following winter she escaped and brought up a family in the neighbourhood during the summer of 1917. Early in 1918 she was recaptured, and about the same time I purchased a cock with a partly white head and neck. I placed them in my largest aviary (40ft. x 20ft. x 20ft. high) where they built in the roof of the shelter.

Having read that British birds are unreliable parents in captivity—a statement which appears doubtful in the case of large natural aviaries—I removed the eggs to a wild sparrow's nest in a high holly hedge. Two hatched and were murdered by rats at the age of ten days, one day before they were to have been removed. Meanwhile the parents had nested again, and this time the eggs were placed in a Great Tit's nest in a bird-box very high up in an oak-tree. Again two hatched and flourished, and at ten days were handed over to a canary.

The complete change of diet did not visibly check their growth, but they were rather slow in leaving the nest. Their plumage was quite normal, as was to be expected.

The same summer I bought a beautiful little Cinnamon hen Goldfinch, and mated her to a normal cock. (An almost pure white cock was unfortunately obtained a few weeks too late).

She built in a large aviary rather crowded with canaries, and laid five eggs. One was left, together with three addled canary eggs, and the others were removed to a Wren's nest in a bird-box.

All were hatched, and after four days, when I saw she was feeding her youngsters well, I returned the others from the wren's nest. They could not have stayed much longer in any case, as the wren gave them insects larger than they could comfortably swallow; moreover *Toujours perdrix* does not commend itself to young finches.

The young Goldfinches were reared, and the devotion of their mother, who looked almost as beautiful as a Gouldian Finch in the sunlight, could not have been greater. Their plumage, of course, was normal.

A month later a horde of rats broke into the aviary and killed about eighty birds out of a hundred in a single night. Among the few survivors were a young cock Goldfinch, the original white hen Sparrow, and one of her sons.

The wire netting was carried to a depth of three feet, and bent two feet outwards. A strip, two feet wide, was also laid on the surface, but they burrowed under a few nights later.

This time they finished off the remaining canaries and hybrids and killed a pure white sparrow with pink eyes, which had not mated.

I sold the white hen, which had now grown a dirty bib, and one of her sons, to a member of the F.B.C., and gave up birds for the time.

A year or two before this I bought a guaranteed " pair " of white robins with pink eyes, not having then learned that " there ain't no sich thing." The plumage of any British cock bird may be white, but apparently the eye is invariably normal, and total whiteness is an appropriate female monopoly.

One of these robins died; the other built and laid twice. Shortly afterwards she was sold, as robins are too pugnacious to experiment with—moral impostors who do not cover the bodies of their victims with leaves, as too many would be required.

During the winter of 1919-1920 I saw no rats about, and decided on a fresh start.

I bought a white cock Goldfinch with a red cap, a very pretty white cock Chaffinch with a dash of pale slate and pale yellow in places (a beautiful faint rose colour appeared on his breast later), and a cinnamon hen Chaffinch. All three had appeared in an " Albino Class " at the National Show at Edinburgh.

A few weeks later I obtained from Ireland a white Goldfinch hen with black wing tips. But this last was in miserable condition and apparently old. In spite of the greatest care and trouble I could not bring it into anything like breeding condition.

I bought back the old white hen Sparrow and her son, which had not bred with their new owner; and secured also a cinnamon hen with pink eyes; and a pure white hen.

All these sparrows settled down to business with alacrity. The cock shared domestic duties with his mother exclusively, but the other two hens also reared young.

When the sparrow broods were in full cry the chaffinches started to nest in perfunctory manner, but soon stopped. I have no doubt they did not get enough natural food in competition with the sparrows. Maggots they refused, mealworms were too expensive to give to such a hungry throng, and my chief resource was the caterpillar, which strips the oak trees in May and June. If the chaffinches had had an aviary to themselves no doubt they would have bred.

The sparrows nested twice and produced nine young ones, many eggs being infertile. Only one had an appreciable amount of white markings, a tail feather or two, and a number of small white feathers, which were only conspicuous when it flew. This was produced by the cinamon hen. There were slight traces of white on another from the old hen's nest.

No more could be expected in this generation. I had written to Professor Bateson, the author of the classical book on Mendelism, to ask whether he thought it possible to produce new varieties of common British birds, and his reply, though kind, was pessimistic.

The Editor of *Cage Birds* was also so good as to send me some evidence on the subject, all negative.

During the summer I also bred some British hybrids in other aviaries—Greenfinch × Siskin and Goldfinch × Greenfinch.

In September, having sold my cottage, I removed from from Liphook to a spot on Chichester Harbour. The rats had already re-appeared, so I was glad to remove the aviaries. However, conditions on the new site proved to be far worse, and my new aviary was promptly raided, yet it was carpetted all over with half-inch netting; but they dug and gnawed in every direction, and I could not, after their entry, find the hole.

The first victim was the cinnamon hen sparrow, though they had fifty less interesting birds to choose from, and others followed in spite of several dogs being tied up round the aviary at night.

I have caged the remainder indoors, including the cock chaffinch, the original hen sparrow and her son, the white hen and a son of the cinnamon hen.

It is very difficult to make a really large aviary, containing shrubs, rat-proof, without great expense; but doubtless there are many places where they are few and less enterprising. Unfortunately I like to be on a creek or river, and so do they. The population on this particular spot is exceptionally crowded, so these birds must be kept in cages for the present; but if any member with suitable accommodation would like them for a year, or perhaps longer, I should be pleased to lend them. How long will rats be allowed their present immunity?

Traps are not effective for long, poison is always dangerous, the introduction of patent virus has made no perceptible difference to the country, and rat-catchers are men of the world. If they could keep down rats effectively they wouldn't. Where is the man who will do himself out of his own job in the interests of the world at large? Not all clergymen would vote for the total disappearance of sin, nor all doctors for the suppression of every disease, if their bread and butter disappeared at the same time.

Perhaps local security might be obtained by keeping domesticated mongooses, snakes, or birds of prey. It would be interesting to hear of any lasting success gained by such methods.

Some people object haughtily to hybrids and albinos on the ground that they are "freaks of nature." But if one thing is more natural than another it is to change; and man, since his early ancestor crawled from the primaeval slime and grew legs, must himself have produced more freaks than all the rest of creation. Whether we interfere with the animals or not, they will change. Fast or slow we shall change with them and become in time mere objects of curiosity to an unsympathising and slightly disgusted posterity.

Correspondence.

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

SIR,—I was interested in your note on the need for immediate steps to be taken to procure, by breeding, the supply of Australian birds in our aviaries.

My own opinion is this can be only done by members co-operating in the establishment of a well managed breeding centre, conducted on the same lines as a poultry farm; that is to say conducted with the sole object of producing a constant supply of vigorous, healthy and prolific birds.

The average aviculturist keeps birds for pleasure only, and wants his aviaries filled with the largest possible number that will exist together in reasonable health and harmony. This means that he is always just a bit too overcrowded to make the best use of his breeding stock—result: dwindling numbers and degeneration through badly reared and weakly youngsters.

I think, without undue egotism, I can say that during the past few years I have prevented the extinction of the Stanley Parrakeet in European aviaries. At present there are enough Stanley's in Gt. Britain, France, Belgium and Holland to perpetuate healthy breeding stock if wisely managed. This result has only been arrived at by a good deal of initial expense in obtaining unrelated stock and devoting four good-sized aviaries to Stanleys only—a thing few people would be prepared to do. At present I find it rather difficult to dispose of the dozen or more youngsters that are reared annually, but I feel sure that if I were to dispose of my stock, in a few years' time there would not be a Stanley to be had for love or money, and people would be glad to give £8 each or more for them!

If a scheme of the kind I suggest appears feasible I shall be pleased to assist with money and birds. I enclose a list of my present Australian stock.

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

[Both a practical and interesting scheme is above outlined, and one which, while keeping the main object in view, would also be "chock-full" of avicultural interest and experiment. It is, however, a scheme which would take considerable organisation and need some form of a syndicate to carry out. We hope we shall hear more from members thereupon.

We would, however, like to point out that those who possess avicultural establishments are few in number, and that the majority have only one two, or three aviaries for their entire stock, and often these aviaries are quite moderate in size.

While some larger scheme is being organised the great need is for some simple arrangement whereby we can make profitable use of the present season, all but upon us? We think on some such lines as under can be arranged: Say four aviculturists have each four pairs of diverse species; this would mean four pairs of four different species spread over four aviaries; if, through the committee to be formed, these four aviculturists arrange a comprehensive exchange of their young stock, unrelated pairs of aviary bred stock, very likely to prove prolific, would be distributed and should throw further very vigorous stock—space will not permit us, just on going to press, to do more than crudely indicate, but on some such lines as these something can be done this present season.

Even by merely systematic exchange of young birds much can be done if members will only take little necessary trouble—there need be no inbreeding or degenerate stock; all degenerates should be weeded out.

With such an idea in view we suggested in last issue a register of Australian stock, not necessarily for publication, but for the use of any committee that may be formed, to enable them to carry out their duties promptly and to the satisfaction of all—several have responded, will the bulk do so?

We will insert adverts *free* for Exchanges *between members* referring to both young and adult stock for breeding purposes.—Ed.]

Capt. G. E. Rattigan and Mrs. Chatterton write in favour of the scheme and send lists—we wish to hear from others.—Ed.

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Book Notices and Reviews.

A Practical Handbook of British Birds: By various authors, edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., with numerous half-tone and coloured illustrations. In 18 parts, price 4s. 6d. per part. London: Witherby & Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C., 1.

Part X. In this part the Order STRIGES (Owls) is complete, and Order ACCIPITRES (Falcons, etc.) is commenced, the following genera being dealt with: *Falco*, *Aquila*, *Buteo*, *Circus*, *Accipiter*, *Milvus*, *Haliaeetus*, and *Pernis*, are dealt with in the usual practical and comprehensive manner common to this work. There are three exquisite half-tone plates, the last of which, by G. E. Lodge, is particularly fascinating, figuring six Accipitrine species, all in aeriel attitudes. The many text figures are very clear and illuminative.

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Post Mortem Reports.

Vide rules page ii. of cover.

Half-masked Weaver (♂).—Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham. The cause of death was enteritis. Jungle Bush Quail (♂): The cause of death was enteritis. Woodlark (♀): Advanced pneumonia. Inclination to fall over was probably due to weakness.

Yellow-billed Cardinal: Capt. Rattigan, Kingskerswell.—Enteritis. Java Sparrow: Enteritis. Blue Tit (♀): This bird was very fat. The nuts on which it was fed contain much vegetable fat. The cause of death was pneumonia.

Zebra Finch (♂): Miss D. E. Pithie, Southsea.– The cause of death was enteritis and pneumonia.

Waxbill (♀): Mrs. Cyril Dennis, Market Drayton.—The cause of death was enteritis and pneumonia.

N. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist.

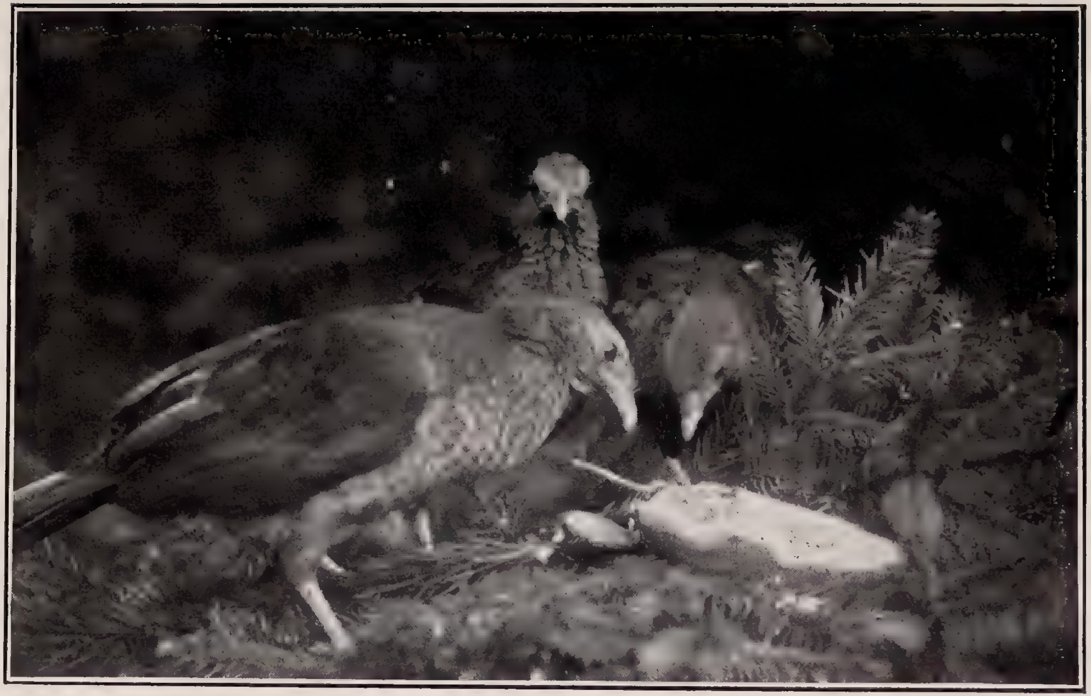

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Little Guans.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

My Little Guans.

By W. Shore Baily.

In September of last year I got from Rogers, of Liverpool, three Little Guans. Mr. Rogers was not certain of the species, and up to the present I have not been able to make out exactly what they are.

These pretty little game birds somewhat resemble Game Bantams, but have pheasant-like tails and rather long necks. They are about a foot and a half in length, of which nearly one half would be tail. General body-colour above reddish-brown; below greyish-brown, slightly dappled on the throat and upper breast, which gives these parts a rather scaly appearance; a narrow buff eyebrow-streak reaches from the beak to the back of the eye; tail-feathers above dark reddish-brown, the four outside pairs chestnut, under-side light bay. Thighs, flanks, and under wings light reddish-brown. Bill, and bare spaces around the eyes pale bluish-slate. A small pair of wattles, as in a Bantam pullet. Legs and feet blackish.

It seems to me that of the four species of Guan to which my birds might possibly be referred, the Para Guan (*Ortalis araucaun*), the White-fronted Guan (*O. guttata*), the White-eyebrowed Guan (*O. superciliaris*), and the Lesser Grey-headed Guan (*O. vetula*) are the most likely species.

From *O. araucuan* my birds differ by having the eyebrow-stripe, and the faint white edging to the breast feathers.

From *O. guttata* by having a narrow eyebrow-stripe and by having the third and fourth pairs of tail feathers chestnut to the base.

From *O. superciliaris* in not having the eyebrow-stripe continued down the neck; and from *O. vetula* in not having the tops of the tail-feathers tipped with white.

According to Ogilvie Grant, none of these birds have wattles. Those on my birds are very distinct.

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Little Guans.

Anyhow, to whatever race they belong, they are most charming little birds. They are extraordinarily tame, and will come at call, perching on one's hands or shoulder, and strongly objecting to be dislodged therefrom. Their flight is an easy one a few rapid beats of the wings and then a long glide. They are quick runners, but spend most of their time in the trees, in which they climb about like monkeys. With small birds they are inoffensive, but with larger ones they are inclined to be pugnacious. On one occasion I introduced a Stone Curlew into their aviary. In a moment they were all three at him, perching on his back and making the feathers fly; had I not quickly gone to the rescue, the poor Curlew would soon have been in a bad way. A pair of Californian Quail were not molested.

I feed them on fruit, bread and milk, and biscuit meal. In the wild state they have an apparently loud call note, but I have never heard this. Mine greet me, whenever I visit them, with a low chuckle, and when being stroked or petted they have a comfy little cry, like that made by young chickens when being brooded, but as my birds are females this may be the reason that I have not heard them, as it is possible that only the males call. Sad to say, I have recently lost two of these charming birds. On dissection both birds were found to have eggs in the ovary; and one had a most peculiar elongation of the trachea. This was prolonged beneath the skin of the breast until it reached the end of the breast bone, whence it returned and entered the chest at the usual place. This peculiarity is found in the males of *O. veluta,* but apparently not in the females. I can hardly believe that my taxidermist has made a mistake in the sex of mine, as he was confident that the birds' ovary contained well grown eggs. I sent the body afterwards to the British Museum, where they have it preserved.

Writing from Yucatan of *O. vetula* "Cha-cha-la-ca" Mr. G. F. Gunner says:

> "This bird spends most of its time in the trees, where it lives upon "the fruit, flowers and tender leaves. Its neutral green plumage renders "it very difficult to spy out the bird. When disturbed it jumps to the "ground to spy out the nature of its danger, gives one or two long "leaps, and again mounts upon a limb, from which it quickly flies from "one branch to another until it escapes in the distance. In the male the "trachea is wonderfully prolonged beneath the skin of the breast and "abdomen almost to the anus, whence it returns and enters the chest at "the usual place. With this great trumpet-like instrument the bird makes "a peculiar noise, which may be heard at a league's distance. The song

"is harsh and sonorous and never produced alone, but after each part the "female, with a finer, shriller voice, repeats it in such rapid succession "that it seems like one bird doing the whole. The usual time for singing "is in the morning and evening."

Writing of the White-fronted Guan (*O. guttata*), Mr. I. Stolzman says:

"One cannot call it a forest bird, for I have never met it in the "depths of the forest, and it keeps more to the outskirts, and is met with "along river banks and among tangled undergrowths. It is generally "found in small flocks of three or four pairs, which, on sighting a human "being, utter a weird and hoarse cry, which they repeat several times with "outstretched necks and enquiring gestures. It is not naturally a shy "bird, and it is only in the more uninhabited parts it becomes wild."

"Many times at Huambo, when we were busy working, these birds "would fly up and perch on the neighbouring trees, sometimes alighting "on the roof of the house and even on the ladder placed before the "window. These visits were especially numerous in wet weather, when "numbers of these birds, in company with pigeons, availed themselves "of the dry ground under the verandah of the house. The country "people call the places that remain dry during the rains, sheltered by over-"hanging rocks and such like 'calpares,' and it is well known to hunters "that these spots are a sure find for birds, more especially Ortalids, "Penelopes and Pigeons. At Troncopola there was a deserted house "without walls, and supported by four pillars. Here, if approached "cautiously, we always, especially in the morning, found Guans or Pigeons "attracted by the dry ground and ashes. Their cry, which is uttered in "the morning and afternoon, may be heard at a considerable distance, "each pair in turn uttering an inharmonious duet. When calling they "sit perched on the branches close to one another, and whilst one, prob-"ably the male, repeats the 'hou-dou-gou,' his mate adds after the first "two syllables 'á-ra-cou,' which, together, makes up the word 'hou-dou-á-"ra-cou,' of which the middle á is the highest and most accentuated note. "Throughout the greater part of its range in South America it is known "by this name. Several females make one nest in common, for four to "twelve eggs are to be found in it, and I have only once seen a female "with two chicks. The eggs are white. The nests are placed on the "ground, and the natives declare that by removing most of the eggs and "leaving one or two, the Ortalids can be induced to go on laying, but I "think that this is extremely doubtful. It is said that the male will cross "with domestic poultry. It is certain that March and April are the "nesting season."

I can find no particulars of the wild life of *O. superciliaris*, which is apparently a very rare bird, and of *O. araucuan* all I can learn is, that they come from the north-east of S. America, the province of Maranhao, and the vicinity of Para, from which latter district my birds were, I believe, obtained. Of the nearly allied species *O. mohnot*, which also comes from northern S. America, Mr. C. B. Brown writes:

> "The native name of this bird is 'Nanaquati.' It is easily tamed, "readily interbreeds with domestic fowls, and the hybrids are said to be "very pugnacious. Its native name is said to be derived from its cry of "'Nannaquoi.' Its nest is built of sticks placed in a low tree. The "eggs, four in number, are speckled, and little inferior to those of a "fowl in size."

In 1914 our member Mr. Suggitt bred *O. vetula*, and an account of this appeared in B.N. 1915; but the species does not appear to have been often kept in this country.

In the photos, herewith the dappled breast and the wattles on one of the birds are plainly shown.

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Red-Collared Lorikeet

(*Trichoglossus rubritorques;* Vigors and Horsfield.)

By A. Decoux.

[Reprinted from "L'OISEAU" for June, 1920, with our compliments and thanks to Author and Editor—translated by Maj. A. E. Snape.—Ed. B.N.]

The Editor of the *L'Oiseau* asks me to add to the interesting article, which one has just read, a few details on the life of the *Lori à collier rouge* in its free state, and on its acclimatisation in Europe. A description also of this parrot will not perhaps appear useless, for although it was first imported several years ago, it is still a rare bird in the French aviaries.

Description: The head is of a brilliant blue; the tip of each feather is of a darker hue than the middle; each of these is distinctly separated from the others, and the whole head seems to be a mass of scales; the blue of the throat is bounded by a dark green line; the chest is orange-red, the neck of the same shade is bordered by a blue band at the back of the neck; the wings, the back, and the tail are green, the top of the back being more or less marked with orange-red, which is especially to be seen when the bird stretches its neck. The inner plumage of the wing is vermilion; the feathers on the sides yellow, bordered with green; those which form the nether covering of the wing are the same colour; the tail feathers on the inside of the wing are tipped with yellow. The beak red (rainbow red), and the feet and legs ashy grey. The shape of the *Lori du Swainson* (Swainson's Lorikeet).

Salvadori does not mention any difference in plumage between the male and female, and, if my memory is correct, Mivart, in his fine *Monographie des Lorides*, which at the moment I cannot lay hands on, also does not mention any.

A. G. Butler, who has applied himself particularly to the study of outside characteristics, which allows the sex of the birds to be distinguished, contents himself with telling us that the beak of the female from its beginning to the middle is narrower and tapers more towards the end. He does not point out any difference in the colour of the two birds. But Wesley T. Page, who has closely studied a couple of these birds, wrote on this subject (BIRD NOTES 1908).

"The sexes differ little, but the female is decidedly smaller and more slender than the male, and the different coloured parts of her plumage are not so sharply defined, but blend more or less with each other." He adds that these remarks need confirmation by other observations. It is precisely this confirmation, which Mr. Ollivry brings us to-day. Madame Lecallier, who has also seen this *Trichoglossus* nesting in her aviaries at Caudebec-les-Elbeuf, wrote to me in her last letter, "I easily distinguish the female by the less vivid tint of her breast and neck."

Let us note in passing that Ornithology will owe once more to Aviculture the definite explanation of a question which she cannot yet answer.

Le Lori à Collier Rouge is probably only a local form of *Le Lori de Swainson*. The two principal characteristics which distinguish it are its orange-red neck and the colour of its abdomen, a very dark green, which appears almost black in the shade.

This species is a native of Northern Australia, while the area of the dispersion of the *Lori du Swainson* is to be found much more to the East.

Gilbert, whom Gould quotes, says in fact that the red-necked *Trichoglossi* are very numerous in the Cobourg peninsula and the neighbouring islands. Elsey observed it more in the West, near the River Victoria. Risenberg reports that it frequents the south coast of New Guinea, but Finsch, in quoting Rosenberg, declares that his assertion needs confirmation.

The natives of the Cobourg peninsula particularly love these beautiful parrots and massacre them wholesale in order to make head-dresses for their clipped heads. Do not be too indignant; is our native fauna treated much better? And do not the feathers, with which the women adorn their hats, cost the life of a much greater number of innocent victims?

The *Loris à collier rouge* live in great flocks, frequenting the highest trees, the flowers and fruits of which form their chief food. The most recent details, which are known about their manners, are given by D. le Souef, the head of the Zoological Society of Victoria (Australia) in the English review *Ibis*.

" These birds," he writes, " are very numerous in the north-west district, bordering on the coast; they are very noisy, generally flying in flocks and uttering piercing cries during their flight; they feed on the honey from different trees and flowery shrubs. They nest in the hollow branches of the Eucalyptus at various distances from the entrance. The eggs are stretched out and are slightly smaller at one end, of a dull white speckled with brown. December and January seem to be the chief season of their nidification."

The brown spots, with which the eggs are covered, are according to Monsieur Le Souef, certainly due to the vegetable matter, which is at the bottom of the hollow branches, in decomposition.

IMPORTATION AND ACCLIMATIZATION: On July 26th, 1900, the London Zoological Gardens received for the first time four parrots of this species; in all probability these were the first living birds imported into Europe. During the following years they were very rare. In 1907 the Berlin Zoological Gardens in its turn exhibited some in its aviaries. Mr. Brook, who has specialised in the study of this species of *psittacides* in captivity, wrote in BIRD NOTES 1916, " I obtained, nine or ten years ago, two of these birds, which were great rarities at that time." They laid eggs in 1908; the eggs, unfortunately barren, could not hatch, and it was the London Zoological Gardens, which, two years later, in one of the large cages of the Parrot House.

reared the first young birds born in Europe. A little before this establishment had obtained the hybrids *T. rubritorques* × *T. forsteni* (1); this last species had in fact been imported at this time in England in large numbers. In 1917 the hybrids of *Lori de Swainson* and *Lori à collier rouge* were born, and were perfectly reared, although the cage had, owing to urgent repairs, to be carried out in the cart of the establishment, to be removed into other quarters a few days after the hatching of the young.

A short time after the success of the London Zoological Gardens Mr. Brook in his turn reared the young of his couple of Lories. He considered this species " as hardy and almost as prolific as the *Ondulée*."

I could quote several other cases of nidification in England, either in the aviary or even in the cage. In fact, these parrots, although very active and restless, seem to live happily in a home of two cubic metres, and are willing to multiply in it.

I do not think that this bird has been bred in Germany; in any case, I have never read anything which related anything about this.

In France the first consignment of *T. rubritorques* did not reach Marseilles till 1913. In all probability it is Mr. Ollivry who reared the first young birds born in our country.

(1). In 1912 Monsieur R. Pauwels obtained in his aviaries at Eversberg hybrids of *T. rubritorques* ♂ × *T. nigrigularis* ♀.

It remains for me to resume my own observations on these *Trichoglossi*. I possessed three couples of these, the other born in Mr. Ollivry's aviaries. The latter lived a few weeks in my possession, and their loss caused me great grief, for they had become extremely tame; they even came and ate dainties from my hand, when I entered their little aviary. They passed the greater part of their time playing, for without doubt they played like young mammifers. How many charming moments have I passed watching them running and pursuing each other along the perch, or uttering cries of joy and beating their wings, balancing themselves head down, hanging by one foot to the wire netting forming the roof of the aviary. They would walk thus in this attitude, supporting themselves sometimes with their beaks, and suddenly they would fall plumb on to a branch, still provoking each other, still pursuing each other.

Photos by E. O. Page.

Red-collared Lorikeets feeding from the hand in the aviary of Wesley T. Page.

But the most curious game which they used to play was this: the two birds, one on top of the other, would roll on the floor, nibbling in a friendly manner each other's beak or feet; one of them would suddenly free himself from the other's embrace, quickly seize his companion, lying on his back, by the tail, and would begin to drag him across the aviary, like the two rats in La Fontaine. The other would soon free himself, fly to a branch, and with gestures and cries—I was going to write laughs—would protest against the impudence of his comrade.

One cannot indeed give any other name than that of play to the actions of this species, and, if these animals play, they merit being classed amongst the birds best reared in constitution, those which resemble most the mammifers in intelligence of the *psittacides*, although they have not all attained the art of imitating the human voice.

My two other couples imported, and without doubt much older—only young creatures play—have never played thus. They are, however, interesting to watch. The roughness of their gestures is peculiar, and often makes me compare them to monkeys; these movements are not the movements of birds.

These old Lories have never become tame like the other two, and, when I open their aviary, they invariably hide themselves in the hollow log, which they use as a dormitory.

The two young birds, of which I have spoken, died in May 1919. They had had at this time a few very warm days, and their little aviary, situated to the south, was too sunny for them. This situation is not very suitable for the home of the parrot, for they fear the sun. The very comfortable shelter inspired in me a confidence which it did not merit. One Thursday morning after a torrid afternoon, going round the aviaries, I noticed the male looked ill; the next morning he was dead—having died evidently from insolation. The female refused all food that day; she did not touch the fruit, although her health remained perfect. Saturday I brought her honey, and a half orange, which she hardly tasted, although she was generally greedy with fruit. In the evening my uneasiness about this diminished, when I saw that she had eaten a little, a very little bread in milk, and a little bit of an orange; she would doubtless survive her companion and would resign herself to forget him. But on Sunday morning she was picked up dead—

having died from starvation—on the grass of the floor. Would it have sufficed to have immediately given her a new mate? Perhaps! But is not the affection of these birds, one to another, a new proof of the great development of their faculties?

It remains for me only to add a word on the food diet of these Loris in captivity. Those which still remain to me are now fed exclusively on canary-grass and fruit. Bread dipped, sometimes in milk, and sometimes in condensed milk and Mellin's food, does not tempt them; although it is served to them every morning, they never touch it. The grass of the floor is browsed from time to time. Groundsel, chickweed, or salad is well received. . . . . In spite of this diet, assuredly little suited to eaters of honey, my birds are the finest of all those I have seen up till now—and I have seen a good number—their plumage is always sleek and of unparalleled brilliance.

The two other couples, who forsook the grain for the bread in milk, were obviously less beautiful; their sluggish feathers gave them sometimes the appearance of ill or very young creatures.

I do not judge this point in the way one would believe; I even think that grain is an unwholesome food for Loris. Such is moreover the advice of Mr. Brook, whose competency in the matter is indisputable, but he also condemns plainly milk in bread; which, he says, provokes grievous liver-complaints. He counsels that the milk should at least be diluted with barley-water, and the mixture sugared before soaking the bread in it. He gives his Loris a pap composed of Mellin's food, Horlick's milk and "Marmite"—products which can be obtained without difficulty in England—to which he adds a little biscuit.

I have successfully used Mellin's food and must highly praise this product. It has a most happy effect on the health of the Lori, and can even be successfully used to re-establish the good working of their tired stomach.

Indian Green-wing Doves.

By E. Sprankling.

In June 1913 I purchased from Messrs. De Von & Co. a pair of Green-wing Doves (*Chalcophaps indica*); they were healthy and in good, but not fully mature, plumage.

This pair of birds was kept in an outdoor aviary, about six feet square, with various other doves, until June 11th, 1915, when I transferred them to a rather larger, sheltered aviary, containing a few finches, which adjoined a wild-kept natural flight. Up to this time, and indeed for two months later, I had observed no sign or inclination on their part to nest; in fact they seemed to take but little interest in each other. However, on August 21st I noticed that some bits of straw, sticks, grass, etc., had been placed on a flat swinging tray, on which the food-pans of the birds were placed; close observation soon confirmed my suspicions that the Green-wings had placed these sticks, etc., in this position, which was certainly a hopeless one for success. On the 23rd the hen laid her first buff-tinted egg; unfortunately it was on the floor and very much bruised, having evidently fallen from the food-tray swinging above; on the following morning another buff egg was laid on the tray, and to prevent this from falling off I placed it in a shallow earthenware pan, together with the sticks, straw, etc., composing the scanty nest; but the birds absolutely ignored this nest, and no further nesting attempt was made during the remaining months of this year.

In demeanour these birds were timid and wild, so much so that, when on one occasion in 1915 I attempted to let them have the full range of the wild-kept aviary, they dashed about in such a dangerous manner (the male Dove actually stunning himself and falling to the ground), that I again caught the hen and picked up the male bird, which was then quite dazed and helpless, and put them both back to their sheltered quarters adjoining; the stunned Dove recovered, although I really thought at first the shock would kill it.

1916: At the beginning of April I again let the Doves, together with the other finches, have access to the wild flight, and this time, I am glad to relate, they were not so wild in their movements, but flew direct into an elder bush in one corner of the flight and perched therein . I then left them to explore quietly at their leisure the additional new surroundings; later I noticed that they seemed to prefer and spent quite a lot of time on the ground, but still kept timid and shy.

In May I noticed that a nesting site had been selected on a flat-topped clump of hay, resting on some dead branches fastened against a wall in the inner or covered portion of the aviary, and in an excellent spot for observation. The birds evidently took this clump to be a ready-made nest, for very little indeed was added. On the 8th one buff egg was laid, and a second on the following day. The male shared in the task of incubation, but both birds remained so shy and timid that, although I did not enter their enclosure to feed them, but fed them in a recessed cupboard which opened into an inner service passage, the slightest movement on my part in pulling out the seed drawers sent either of the birds wildly off the nest at once; this unfortunately ended in disaster, for, on the morning of the 12th the male bird madly flew out of the nest, pulling an egg out after it, which was, of course, broken. I then went in to examine the nest and found that it sloped outwards, also that the remaining egg was also in a precarious position, so in spite of what the birds would do or think of my interference, I propped up the nest so as to let the upper surface slope on all sides to the wall; this answered quite well, and in due course the egg hatched sometime on May 22nd, just fourteen days from the laying of the first egg.

The youngster was of a swarthy flesh-colour, with scanty buff down on its body, and a little white tip at the end of its beak, but on the next day, the 23rd, the general hue of the bird was much darker, its colour being of a blue-black tone all over, and was not by any means a pretty creature to look at. On the 26th I noted that the bird was growing well and could open its eyes; feather stubs were showing well on wings, tail, and body. On the 28th, when six days old, I found that the wing-sheaths had grown extraordinarily long and had little brown tips; all other stub-feathers were more developed. On several occasions I saw the hen feeding this youngster from its crop, as is usual with doves and pigeons. Since the hatching of the young bird the parents have become less wild, especially the hen, who would remain in the nest even when I entered the enclosure, providing I entered and moved about quietly; the male also would sometimes tolerate my presence, but generally he disappeared into the growing bushes of the outer portion.

May 29th: The long wing-sheaths have burst and also the stubs on the back of the bird; small stubs now show on the head and neck. The colour of the feathers is a mixture of black and brown. On the 31st the bird had quite a well-covered appearance, the wing and back-feathers being blackish with brown lacings; breast brown, barred with black; head and neck simply showing short stubs; it is now 9 days old.

June 1st: Some of the blackish feathers on the youngster's back appear shot with green.

June 3rd: Head and neck stubs bursting, but not yet looking well-covered. On this day, towards evening, I found that this young bird had flown out of the nest and was perching on some branches arranged on the opposite wall, about six feet away, with its mother; it seemed very wonderful that the young bird could be so far advanced as to be able to fly at twelve days old, yet this has happened in many later successes.

It appeared a quaint figure with its oval-looking body-shape (the tail being short and the wings long at this stage), its barish-looking head and neck, and rather long dark beak and legs. The eyes are very dark brown, with black pupils. The greyish-white barring showed well on rump or lower portion of back.

In the early morning of the following day I found it in the nest, but later saw it perching on the branches again; I afterwards observed that the youngster and mother-bird returned to their nest at night and did so for some time after this young bird's first flight—in fact, until I was obliged to remove it, but that is another episode. I saw the youngster feeding by itself on June 11th, just nineteen days old. The head and neck were not well feathered until about six days after its first flight; the feathers over eyes and frontal of head were of a lighter brown tone than those immediately surrounding.

On June 10th, just seven days after the youngster made its exit from the nest, the Green-wing laid again in her old nest without any preparation, the second egg being laid on the following day. During the brooding of this second clutch of eggs the youngster was often with its parents on the nest, and always in the evening, both parents appearing to be very affectionate towards their firstborn.

On June 24th both eggs were cracked or billing, and I began to congratulate myself on soon having a couple more youngsters, but alas! the tragedy of life is always with us in aviculture. I ought not to have counted my chickens so early, for, on paying my usual morning visit on the 25th, I was astonished to find the nest contained but one egg, in an advanced state of hatching, and no additional young bird in the nest. I looked everywhere, but could find no trace of it, so thought that the egg had probably hatched and a mouse had carried off the fledglings; a little later, however, the suspicion arose in my mind as to whether the first youngster had anything to do with the disappearance of this egg or young bird, so I determined to watch, and it was fortunate that I did so, for in a little while it came in from the outer flight and flew up with the hen on the nest. After a time it seemed to notice some movement under the hen, and the elder youngster promptly pecked in this direction until suddenly the other little body was thrown over the edge of the nest. Fortunately I had placed plenty of hay underneath in case of accident, so the young bird was not hurt in falling; a little blood was on its beak (probably from the other bird pecking it), but, as this did not appear to be much, I quickly put it back, caught up the culprit, and placed it in an adjoining aviary, vowing that no other youngster should have this chance again; no doubt the other egg had hatched, the chick been thrown out in a similar manner, and a mouse had disposed of its body. The second youngster was looking all right the next morning, and continued to thrive until, on the morning of July 8th, when about twelve and a half days old, it flew off the nest; its general appearance was as described for the first youngster.

On July 16th, just eight days after the last bird flew, the old hen laid again, depositing another egg on the following day. My second young bird, as in the previous case, sat with the parents while these eggs were being brooded, but on July 28th I caught it up to prevent any mischief being done to this third clutch of eggs.

July 30th: Both eggs were hatched by this morning, and from this date the squabs grew well and flew on the 12th of

August, thirteen days old, about one day later than previous records. I saw both youngsters feeding on the 19th, this being seven days after their exit from the nest, but they were still fed by the male parent for another week.

August 20th: Old male chasing and driving hen, causing quite a commotion in the aviary. 21st, hen still having a bad time, but I noted this quarrel only lasted until the following day, when they appeared to have made up their differences; it was quite evident that nesting had finished for this season, and soon after both birds fell into their moult.

Result: four strong, healthy youngsters—one male and three hens. I have bred Green-wings every year since, and have a pair at present which was let into the wild flight on March 6th last. They at once built in a spruce tree and laid their first egg on the 13th, and the second the next day; the male sat closely on the nest during a heavy fall of hail and rain, with a fierce wind blowing. Talk about "hustle," the Americans aren't in it.

The male is looking absolutely resplendent in hard and glistening plumage, his brilliant, scarlet, waxy-looking beak contrasting finely with the white eye-brows and frontal band of his blue-grey head, and the rich purplish-maroon colour of his breast.

The laced and barred appearance of the youngsters in juvenile plumage gradually gives place to the more even tones of brown breast, and black and shot bronze and green of the upper-parts, until, at about three months old they appear very like adult hens, except that they are not quite so brilliant looking, and that the beak and legs are of a darker tone. When about ten weeks old the legs and beak may be noticed changing colour.

The young males may be distinguished by the colour of the tail-feathers and lower back, this being of a decided blue-grey-black, like that of the male parent. The young female has brownish-black tail, etc., as in the adult female; she is also of slightly inferior size, otherwise both sexes look like hens; these differences are somewhat comparative, but a keen observer could easily distinguish the male birds. These Doves are hardy and easy to cater for; they should, however, be transferred to a covered aviary during the winter.

My New Aviaries.

BY H. E. BRIGHT.

(Concluded from page 55).

CORRIGENDA: On page 53, line 18, of last instalment, for "American Thrushes" read *American Robins*.

AVIARY NO. 2: This aviary is 30ft. x 12ft., and is divided from No. 1 by a wood and glass partition, which extends right up to top of flight; a provision to prevent the wind blowing through this series of flights. A reference to the GROUND PLAN, which faces page 50 in last issue, will show the arrangement of closed and open shelters, which are built against the east wall (this wall extends the entire length of this range of aviaries) and the photo illustrates the general arrangement of the flight, and shows the shelters at the back.

Mr. Bright's Aviary No. 2.

The fronts of the shelters are double boarded up, with the exception of a small open doorway; there are three windows in each and a light in the roof.

The bath and drinking water arrangement consists of a small cemented pond, which is partly supplied by rain water from the roof. There is a drain pipe beneath same to act as a soak-away when the pond requires cleaning, constructed precisely as the illustration in *Aviaries and Aviary Life*.

In this aviary I have:

pair Giant Whydahs (*Choera procne*).
pair Weavers, similarly coloured to Rufous-necks, but much smaller; I don't know the species.
pair Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*).
pair Australian Crested Doves (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
pair Dwarf Turtle Doves (*Turtur humilis*).
cock Red-bellied S. American Thrush paired to a hen English Thrush (*Turdus musicus*).
cock Dwarf Turtle paired to a hen Barbary Turtle Dove (*T. risorius*).

The last named Doves nested, but there was no result.

AVIARY NO. 3: This is one of a pair of narrow aviaries, 30 ft. long by 6ft. wide, and is arranged and planted similar to the preceding, so far as width allows.

The shelter shed is erected against the back (east) wall, and is in all respects similar to those in No. 2 aviary.

Here I have a pair of Blue Jays, which are in lovely condition and fly up and down this place all day, and make a grand picture as they thus display their lovely azure plumage. I am hoping they may breed this season.

This aviary and No. 4 are planted with privet, elder, bamboos and ornamental shrubs, the ground space between being covered with coarse grasses and other herbage.

AVIARY NO. 4: This is exactly similar to No. 3 in size and all other details, so description is not called for.

Here I have a young pair of Migratory Thrushes (*Turdus migratorius*) and my Golden Pheasants (*Chrysolophus pictus*).

The ground covered by this range of aviaries, No. 1 to 4, is sheltered on the north by the birdhouse and a tall holly hedge; on the east by a brick wall (17ins. thick); on the west by a shrubbery; the south end is screened by wood and glass shutters. Therefore these aviaries are well protected against the adversities of English weather, and I am hoping for good results.

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

MRS. BURGESS' BIRDROOM AND BIRDS.

(*Continued from page 70*).

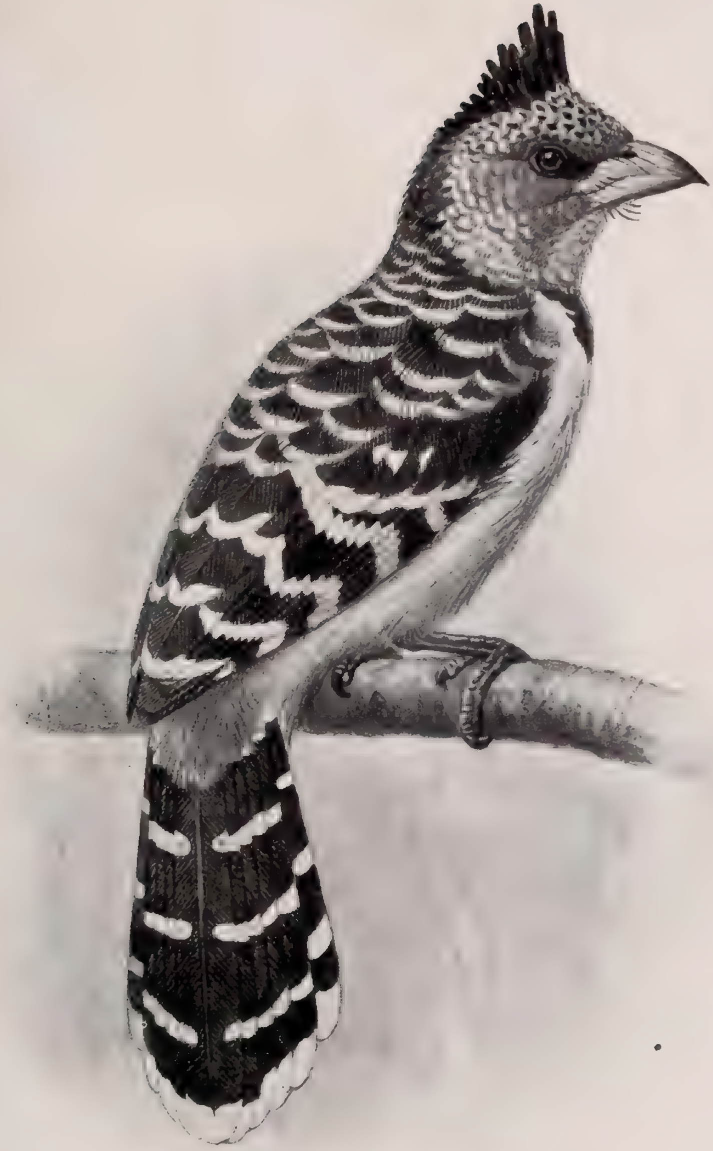
CORRIGENDA: Owing to a very superficial reading of proofs at the moment of going to press several annoying errors were passed in the previous instalment, as follow:—

page 64, line 3, for "birdy-odour," read *birdy odour.*
page 64, line 8 from bottom, delete *comma* after diagram
page 65, line 15, for "Le Vaillent's," read *Le Vaillant's.*
page 65, line 35, for "*Paloernis,*" read *Palaeornis.*
page 66, line 5, after "together," insert *of.*
page 66, line 30, for "*Pognorhynchus,*" read *Pogonorhynchus.*
page 66, line 36, for "*Poecephalus,*" read *Poecoephalus.*
page 67, line 19, for "bad-taste," read *bad taste.*
page 69, line 21, for "*Caiea,*" read *Caica.*

I purpose *trying* to make these notes of general practical utility by including notes of their wild life and treatment in captivity, though this will lengthen them out into several instalments; however, they can terminate abruptly at any time by members intimating that they have had enough of them.

Le Vaillant's Barbet (*Trachyphonus cafer*): I think I am correct in stating that the first live specimen of this species was exhibited by Mr. O. Millsum, at the L.C.B.A. Show in 1909. Mrs. Burgess' specimen was not in fully mature plumage, neither had it recovered from the ragged appearance consequent upon importation.

The late Mr. Goodchild's drawing was made from life, and with it illustrating these notes but little description will be necessary, as the plumage pattern is clearly indicated. Crest and band across the chest black; upper back, wings and tail black, scaled and barred with white; the black chest band is followed by a band of white, narrow in the centre, but much broader at the sides; remainder of the plumage is light sulphur-yellow, the feathers of the head and sides of face having dark centres and red tips; there are also a few red striations on the breast, and the upper tail-coverts are more or less tipped with red; beak yellowish horn-colour; legs blackish-gdey; iris deep red. Thus it will be readily seen what a beautiful bird a perfect specimen is.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Le Vaillant's Barbet (*Tachyphonus afer*).

Range: The Transvaal, Natal, Bechuanaland, Rhodesia, and Portugese East Africa.

Wild Life: The accounts of this are rather meagre; Mr. Buckley writes:

> "It creeps along the boughs of a tree like a Woodpecker, for which "I often mistook it; it is by no means a shy bird."

Dr. Exton writes:

> "The note of this bird is a continuous trill, somewhat resembling the "quick 'tap, tap, tap' of *Dendrobates*, when at work on a decayed tree. "I obtained three specimens by following the sound from tree to tree. "When calling they usually perch upon the uppermost twig, and their "peculiar jerk of the body whilst producing the sound, can be visibly distinguished. The female has the same note as the male. In a fresh "specimen the bill is greenish-yellow, tipped with black; iris reddish brown; "gizzard contained berries and shreds of leaves; that of the female only "contained shreds of leaves."

In Captivity: They must either be kept alone or associated with birds similarly robust, strong and audacious to themselves, as they are well able to account for birds much stronger than themselves. The late Col. Boyd Horsbrugh, who imported the first two to this country, states that when he put a Meyer's Parrot into their large cage they would have killed it very quickly had he not been watching.

They are susceptible to cold and are the better for a retiring box or log in their cage or flight, and should only be kept outside during the warm summer months.

Diet: Sweet, ripe fruit *ad. lib.*, any kind they will take, the more varied the better; also a liberal supply of live insects; insectile mixture, boiled rice (sweetened); stewed fruit and milk sop may also be given to vary the diet. Barbets have rather individual tastes, which we must pander to, allowing them to choose what they will take from some such *menu* as above. If they take all indiscriminately all the better, as an amply varied *menu* can be maintained.

BLUE-CHEEKED BARBET (*Cyanops asiatica*): This is an Indian species, and is much more common than the above; it has several times been written about in BIRD NOTES, and I need add but little here. I have had quite a few of them; they are handsome, really beautiful birds, and as regards their treatment in captivity, require the same *menu* and accommodation as Le Vaillant's.

Mr. Scott Freeland kept a pair in his large aviary among a general series of *Ploceidae*, *Fringillidae*, Sugar-birds, Fruit-suckers, etc., but this is a risk I should not care to take, owing to the danger of a display of temper when no one was at hand to prevent their doing damage. This pair of birds slept every night in a coco-nut husk.

Mrs. Burgess' specimen was in fine plumage and in high fettle generally.

My birds always had access to ripe fruit, milk sop, live insects and insectile mixture, only taking of the latter sparingly and all the other items of the *menu* freely.

According to Jerdon and Blyth it is a noisy bird on its native heath, and its peculiar call has been syllabilized by Mr. Blyth as *kuruwuk, kuruwuk, kuruwuk*. It hops actively about the branches and lives entirely on fruit.

Description: Green above, glossed with a coppery sheen, grass-green below; forehead, hind crown, and a spot on each side of the fore-neck rich crimson; band across the crown, continued backward as an upper supercilium black; cheek, ear-coverts, moustache, throat, and narrow lower supercilium verditer-blue. Bill greenish-yellow at base, black at tip; iris ruddy-hazel; legs greenish-ashy. Length 9½ins., of which the tail measures 3ins.

PIED BARBET (*Pogonorhynchus leucomelas*): This is quite a small and pleasing species and reminds one at once of the Indian Coppersmith Barbet (*Xantholoema haemacephala*), but Mrs. Burgess' pair showed scarcely any red, being quite young birds.

Description: "General colour above black, pencilled with yellow; "forehead deep crimson; a stripe extends from the nostril to the back of "the head; the first part of this is yellow, the last part white; a broad white "line extends from the corner of the bill down the side of the throat; chin "and gorget black; belly dirty white, mixed with grey; wing-secondaries "and tail-feathers margined with yellow; bill dark-brownish horn-colour; "feet and toes slaty-brown; iris amber-brown. Length 6ins., of which "the tail measures 2ins." L. and S. *Birds of Africa*.

Wild Life: It is of solitary habits, being mostly met with singly, never more than one pair seen together, and that but seldom. It feeds on fruit, berries, and insects. They nest in holes in trees, but do not make the holes. The eggs are both plain and spotted. Mr. Atmore writes:

"I know of a tame one which roamed about unconfined. It ate "meat, bread, sugar, corn, in fact anything—appeared very much attached "to its mistress, and came regularly into the house to be fed. It disappeared at the pairing season, so I suppose it got married!"

Layard and Sharpe state:

"We found it common in the Albany division, and one evening took five out of the stem of an aloe at Talk Farm, whither they had retired to roost. We were assured by Mr. White, the owner of the farm, that they had bred there, making the hole themselves."

Mrs. Burgess' birds, though immature, were very fit, and tightly feathered, vivacious, and very fearless for recent arrivals. They certainly were very handsome, even though as yet not in adult plumage, and interesting birds.

JARDINE'S BABBLER (*Crateropus jardinii*): This species is new to aviculture, and a very handsome bird, as the following description indicates.

As I have no personal notes of this bird, and had not time to take more than main features of colouration. I am quoting description and notes of wild life from Layard and Sharpe's *Birds of Africa*.

Description: Above olive-brown; feathers of the head dark brown, edged with greyish-white, imparting to the bird a scaled appearance; chin, throat, breast, and anterior portion of belly ashy-brown, marked with elongated white spots; posterior portion of belly and vent yellowish-grey; tail dark brown, centre pair of feathers strongly tinged with grey, all crossed by dark brown bars, only visible if viewed in certain positions; bill black, tarsi and feet dusky; iris bright yellowish-red (Ayres), dark red (Buckley). Length 10ins., of which the tail measures 4¼ins."

Wild Life: Mr. Ayres writes:

"I found these birds inhabiting the bush near Tugela; there was a party of eight or nine together . . . . they have a chattering note, and a rather heavy flight; the stomach of the bird sent contained caterpillars. I have never met with them on the coast, and believe they are entirely confined to the upper districts; they are, however, also found on the river Limpopo, and it also occurs in the Transvaal."

Mr. Buckley observes:

"I took a nest of this bird on the Limpopo. It contained but one egg; but the parent bird was close to the nest, which was about the size of a Blackbird's, deep and coarsely lined, and placed in a small but very thorny tree. The eggs were of a blue colour, like a Thrush's without spots."

Sir Andrew Smith thus describes its habits:

"Spots covered with reeds, such as are seen along the margins of many of the rivers of the country they inhabit, appeared to form their "favourite feeding places; and though when disturbed, they leave those "for a time, and take up their abode among the brushwood with which the "banks of the river were more or less covered, they invariably returned "to the haunts they had left when the cause which had led them to remove "ceased to exist. While lodged among the reeds they were almost "incessantly in motion; and from their being generally associated in great "numbers, the noise occasioned, partly by their flitting from one stem to "another or climbing, and partly by the harsh cries they uttered, more "especially on the appearance of danger, rendered even a temporary residence in the vicinity of their haunts quite disagreeable. Though they "evidently preferred as resorts, the situations described, yet, where reeds "did not occur, they were occasionally found among brushwood remote "from rivers; and in these positions they also displayed an extremely "restless disposition; scarcely were they observed to enter a bush or thicket "before they were seen leaving it on the opposite side, for an adjacent one. "Though such was their common practice, there appeared times when they "were less disposed to hasty changes, and when they were to be noticed, "not simply following a tortuous course, but even ascending and descending "among the branches; nay, even visiting the ground below and around "the bushes. As far as we had opportunities of judging, they feed "exclusively upon insects; those among reeds seeming to have committed "great havoc among the larvae of *Gryllidae*, etc., while those among the "brushwood appearing principally to have fed upon *coleopterous* insects."

I noticed Mrs. Burgess' pair of birds were very impatient of observation, and it was very difficult to get a glance of them for the purpose of noting contour, colouration, etc. They were not noisy, nor yet boisterous, but gave evidence of being of a shy and retiring demeanour.

Indian birds of similar habits do well in captivity upon insectile mixture and live insects, and I have seen them partaking of milk-sop, as most purely insectivorous species will do.

PIED BABBLER (*Crateropus bicolour*): This species is about the size of a Thrush, and its colouration is black and white, and is consequently a striking bird, though less so than an English Pied Blackbird which occupied the same flight.

This species is of very similar habits, in its native haunts, as the Jardine's Babbler, consequently only the main points need be noted, also gleaned from Layard and Sharpe's *Birds of Africa*.

They go in flocks from tree to tree, following each other almost in single file. When one commences its peculiar sort of chuckling the others follow suit, till the noise becomes almost deafening. They have a skimming sort of flight. It is more frequently found among low bushes on the dry plains than

C. jardinii. The stomachs of those killed for examination were full of black ants and small seeds. When alarmed, it flies slowly from tree to tree, its flight being feeble. It is an excellent climber, and is equally at home upon the ground.

The nest, found by Mr. Andersson in Great Namaqualand, was constructed externally of fine twigs and coarse grasses, and lined with finer grass; circular, deep, and very compact. It was placed in a fork of a small anna tree some ten to twelve feet from the ground. It contained three eggs which are of a greenish-blue colour, smooth at the extremeties, but quite rough on the central parts, with numerous little tubercles.

Mr. Andersson observed a family party of two adults and three young, hopping about in an anna wood, almost as carelessly and fearlessly as Robins. The female led the way, followed by the young, which uttered a querulous, subdued note.

(*To be continued*).

◆

Correspondence.

SEX DISTINCTION OF JAVAN PARRAKEET, AND VARIABILITY IN THE CALLS OF INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SPECIES.

Sir,—Did it ever occur to you to doubt the statement that the female Javan Parrakeet (*Palaeornis alexandri*) has a red beak, unlike the *very* nearly allied Moustache Parrakeet (*P. fasciata*), which has a black one like the female Malabar Parrakeet (*P. malabarica*)? I find, however, that it is really the case, for a couple I received last year have paired and laid eggs in a cage, and the female has a red beak.

It is curious among certain parrots how much variation there is in the calls of individuals of the same species, even those which have been tamed. Each of the three Alexandrines (*P. alexandrina*) I have owned had an entirely different call. Among Barraband's (*Polytelis barrabandi*) there is less difference, but I could distinguish several of mine by their voice alone.

Nearly every cock *Platycercus* has two or three whistling notes and a call note common to most individuals of his species. It is exceptional to find two cock broadtails whose whole repertoires are alike, and even the common call-note is sometimes absent. Every Yellow-bellied Parrakeet (*Platycercus flaviventris*) I owned until last year used to utter the "Kossuk, kossuk, kossuk" note, from which one of its local names is derived; but my present cock never uses it, and his language is very "Pennant."

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

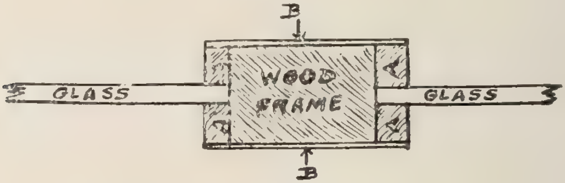
UNUSUAL NESTING-SITE OF BUDGERIGAR IN CAPTIVITY.

Sir,—It may be of interest to readers of *Bird Notes* to know that I have two pairs of blue-bred Green Budgerigars in my aviary. Husks are available, but one pair has a nest in a hole in a thick chalky plaster wall—the other pair have burrowed *underground* and have eggs there on the bare soil.

W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

WOOD AND GLASS PARTITIONS IN AVIARIES.

Sir,—Wood and glass partitions were mentioned re two aviaries in the last issue of *Bird Notes*, and I greatly favour these, and send herewith a sectional sketch which may be useful to our members. I advised Mrs. Burgess to have these put in as under.



Section of Wood and Glass Partition (centre bar). A.A.A.A. wood beading. B.B. sheet zinc from glass to glass.

JOHN W. MARSDEN.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide rules page ii. of cover.

Crested Tit: Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham. Cause of death pneumonia and fatty liver. Cordon Bleu (♀) enteritis.

N. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist.

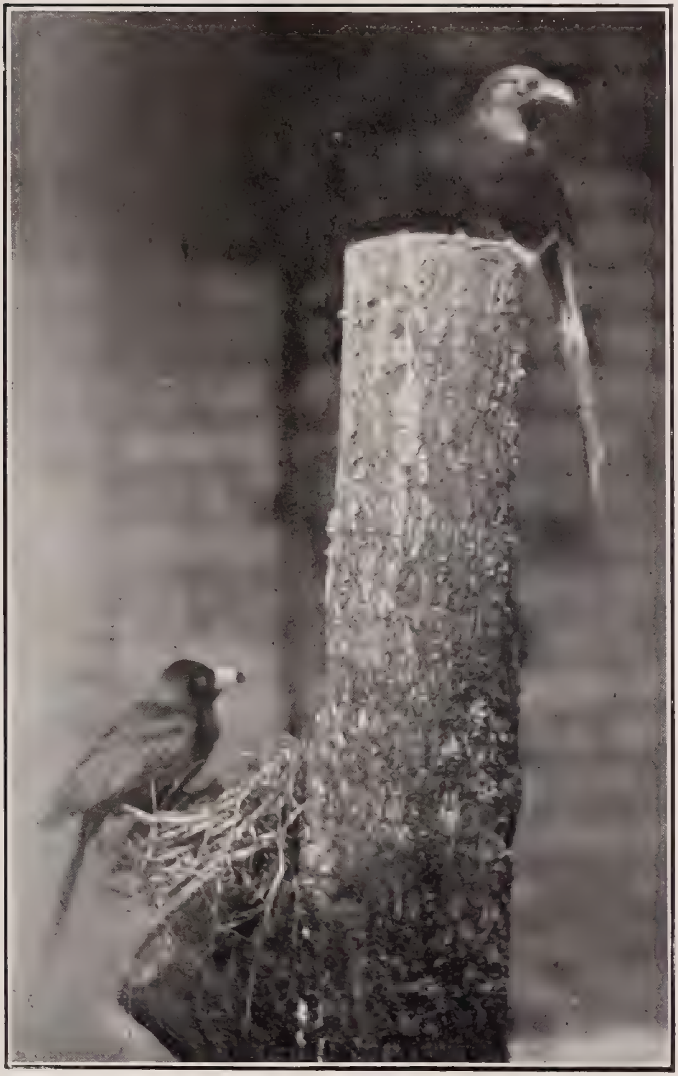


Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Senegal Pies *(Cryptorhina afra).*

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Senegal Pie *(Cryptorhina afra.)*

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Early in March this year, a consignment of these birds was landed at Marseilles; a pair of which went on to Mr. Rogers, of Liverpool, from whence they found their way to the Boyers House aviaries.

These birds appear to have been very rarely imported into Europe, as Mr. Rogers states that he had never previously seen them.

Provided one is able to give them an aviary to themselves they make very good aviary birds, for, although Mr. Rogers, whilst he had them, appears to have kept them safely with other birds, I should not myself care to trust them in an enclosure with birds at all smaller or weaker than themselves.

In size they are about equal to an English Jackdaw, but have long tails like our Magpie. Colour: glossy black; primaries and undersides of tail-feathers dark brown, especially noticeable when the bird is on the wing. Eye prominent and rich reddish-brown. Bill and feet black, except in the female, which has the bill rose-colour with a black tip. However, this sex distinction, according to Dr. Millet Horsin, appears to be doubtful. Their demeanour in captivity is very like that of our Jackdaw and Magpie. I feed them on bread and milk and biscuit meal. They are also very fond of mice, birds' eggs, and cooked meat.

Writing of this bird in B.N. for 1909, Dr. E. Hopkinson says:—

"This bird, which is commonly called the 'Jackdaw' by the English in Bathurst, and 'Pie-Pie' by the native boys, looks very like, and in its habits very much resembles, a large black Starling with a comparatively long, graduated tail. They are extremely common everywhere, going about in small parties of six or ten; in Bathurst they live chiefly on what they

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

The Senegal Pie.

can pick up in the streets and yards, or what is cast up by the sea, but in the Protectorate they are usually seen in attendance on the flocks of sheep and goats to which they are almost as much attached as the Oxpeckers are to the cattle. They hop about amongst them, ride on their backs, while searching their coats for ticks, and generally act as friends and attendants on their four-footed companions. If disturbed they fly to the nearest tree with shrill squeaks (almost the word creck) which are distinctly shriller in the female than in the male; from this post of vantage they scold at the intruder, whether man. dog. or

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

The Senegal Pie.

other animal, until the coast is clear, or they have satisfied themselves that he is not dangerous, when they flop down again to their original occupation. When wild they are very tame, and in fact almost impudent, and evidently appreciate the society of man and beast. I have had one or two in captivity when they took to a diet of raw meat readily, but something has always occurred to prevent my getting one home. I should have mentioned before that they feed largely on the bigger insects, such as locusts and beetles, and are always to be found with other birds, hunting the insects driven up by bush fires. Native name: Chacha fino—black chatterer."

Writing of this bird in a recent number of *L'Oiseau*, Dr. Millet Horsin says:—

" The Senegal Black Pie, or ' Piac-piac ' of Levaillant, is common throughout the whole of French West Africa. It is not very interesting as it is very wild, even in an aviary. Nevertheless, one I have kept proved easy to tame. The subject of which I am writing the history was wounded by me, one evening at Anécho on June 5th, 1919: I was returning from a short walk, and whilst crossing a coco-nut plantation I saw the Pie, about twenty yards away. I gave it a charge of No. 12 shot from a cartridge with a half load of powder. It fell, taking refuge in a small cactus bush, in which I covered my hands with blood in capturing the bird. It had no apparent wound, and seemed simply stunned. I put it on my return together with a black Pie-Grièche, similarly wounded, into a moveable cage already occupied by a Pie-Grièche of the same kind (*Lanius collaris smithi*). The Pie showed itself very agitated at first, but calmed down towards nightfall. The next day it accepted its fate; it cried less and was not so frightened by spectators. It ate with an appetite some little pieces of mutton as if it had been used for a long time to this kind of food. With its two co-prisoners, the black Pie-Grièches, it comported itself very peacefully, and the cries of alarm with which they greeted its approach quickly ceased, and in a few days they agreed completely. I noticed that in this Pie the wings are not crossed in repose, but that their points join on the rump without quite touching."

" The Black Pie seems to me—and I have confirmed it by later observations on other specimens—a bird as gentle and inoffensive in a cage as its French congener is wicked and brutal. Sometimes it teases its companions, but without malice. The one of which I am speaking was on very good terms with a Senegal Dove that a negro brought me one day, completely stripped of its flight feathers, which I put into a cage out of charity, as I could not release it in the state in which it was found. The food of the Pie was very simple—meat, grasshoppers and occasionally milk-sop (it refused this food if offered too frequently); it never accepted any fruit, not even banana, and it only touched millet occasionally. Peace was only broken on June 28th by the admittance to the cage of a Coucal (*Centropus monachus*, commonly called *Coq de Pagoda*) a brutal and badly brought up companion. which sought a quarrel with the Pie, and was very badly received, but by the 2nd of July they were quite good friends, perching side by side, and the Pie even offering to feed the other. This, however, did not last long, and about the middle of July they commenced quarrelling again. These were never very serious, and I have always accused the Coucal of commencing them, but they increased more and more, until the death of the Coucal on the 2nd August, 1919. On August 18th, the Pie travelled without any kind of trouble for thirty hours by boat and rail to Cotonou, and remained in the same hamper with the Dove mentioned before and two green Touracons (*Turacus buffoni*). At Cotonou the cages were set up in the garden of the hospital, and the Pie was not long in attaching himself closely to the Touracous, and on the death of one of them, would not quit the survivor. The bird stood the uncomfortable journey on the "Burgomaster" from the 16th August until the 4th October very well, and was installed in the laboratory at Dakar, when I left to go to the Soudan. When I captured this Pie its beak was absolutely black; it gradually became marbled with grey blotches, and little by little the hinder part of the beak changed to a pretty tint of rose-colour. Some young specimens that I had in my hands, this year in the Soudan, had from their birth two thirds of their beak rose-coloured; two have died, and a post mortem showed them to be both males. Another that lived had the same character as the one about which we have been writing. This Pie lived well together with a large Pie-Grièche (*Lanarius poliocephalus*), a Cog de Pagoda, a Lapwing and two Egyptian Plovers. Its best friend was a Roller (*Coracias abysinnicus*) to whom it confided many interesting and amusing things, which the Roller no doubt understood, but which I myself was incapable of translating. Another specimen, wounded in December at Kan M'Bila, ate freely in a cage on the first day of its capture, and proved remarkably friendly. But on the 24th April a stupid boy left its cage door open, and it departed without leaving its address. All the Pies that I have kept have had the same good habit of notifying by their cry the approach of anything dangerous, thus allowing me to act quickly when a bird of prey, a cat, a dog, or a snake, has shown too much interest in my menagerie."

With apologies to Dr. Millet-Horsin for a somewhat free translation. W.S.B.

Starting the Season 1921.

By Lawrence Pullar, F.Z.S.

What interests me may interest my fellow members, so I am just jotting down a few notes concerning my arrangements for the coming season.

Of course, this really commences in the late autumn, or perhaps early winter, for the care of the birds during that period plays an important part in the success or failure of the following season.

My aviaries are on clay soil, and our winters here (Perthshire) are generally very severe, therefore my birds have to go indoors from November to April. Their winter quarters are a disused stable, the three loose-stalls of which I have turned into roomy flights, each about 10ft. x 15ft. x 12ft. high. Each flight is furnished with branches, perches, food and water hoppers. No nest-receptacles are put up as I have no desire to encourage winter nesting. A hot-water pipe runs along the back of each flight, and a comfortable temperature can always be maintained.

On April 2nd I transferred my birds from these winter quarters to my outdoor aviaries, and they are dispersed through the various enclosures as follows:

No. 1. This is unoccupied at present, but later I hope to house a Wandering Tree-pie in it.

No. 2. Here I have placed, pairs only, the following species:

Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).
Senegal Turtle Doves (*Turtur senegalensis*).
Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*).
Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*).

Here I intend adding later a pair of Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus haematonotus*).

No. 3. This enclosure forms my largest aviary; size, etc., was given in a recent issue of BIRD NOTES, and in it are housed:

1 pair Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*).
1 pair White-wing Parrakeets (*Brotogerys virescens*).
1 pair Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*).
1 pair Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
1, ♂, Virginian Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
1, ♀, Passerine Parrakeet (*Psittacula passerina*).
A flock, Yellow and Green Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).

I am hoping to get either a pair of Black-headed (*Conurus nenday*) or Speckled Conures (*C. euops*).

This aviary contains a fair amount of cover, and the ground area is planted with docks, grasses, and dandelions. I have recently planted some creepers on the outside, which will give shade in places during the summer months.

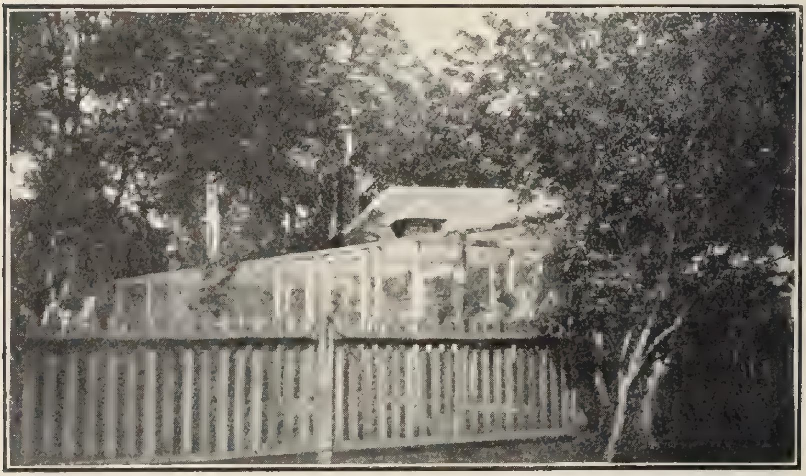
No. 4. This enclosure is occupied by various colour forms of *Melopsittacus undulatus*, viz:

1 pair Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.
1, ♂, "Jade" Budgerigar.
1, ♀ Blue-bred Green Budgerigar.
(These two are paired).
1, ♂, Olive-bred Budgerigar.

No. 5. Here I have two pairs of Blue-bred Green Budgerigars, and have great hopes of breeding a Blue! So far they have only inspected the nest boxes.

Luck, both good and bad, appears to be a *sine qua non* of aviculture, if not of most things, and I had the bad luck to lose my cock Peach-faced Lovebird during the winter, and though I managed to get another one, I fear it is a hen. The old hen has started to build, and I hope to be able to get a mate for her in a few days.

The Green Cardinals have been out of doors since I bought them in February last, and are in exhibition trim. They come down to my feet for mealworms, of which they are very fond. A few days ago I put the mealworm tin on the ground, while I was fixing up a nest-log, and it was most interesting and amusing to see, when I turned round, the hen cardinal sitting on the top of the box trying "her best" to get the lid off. The hen is much the bolder bird of the two, and will, I think, in time become very tame.



General View of Mr. Pullar's Aviaries.

The Virginian Cardinal is a beautiful, but alas! also an odd bird, and so far I have been unable to obtain a hen, but live in hopes! He is a fair songster.

One of the Budgerigars started the season to-day (April 15th) by laying an egg—may there be many more, and from all my pairs!

In cages I have a fine Tricolour Tanager (*Calliste tricolor*), and a cock Yellow-wing Sugarbird (*Coereba cyanea*).

Both are in fine form and take a bath daily, wet or fine. The tanager feeds on insectile mixture, and ripe fruit, being especially fond of apple. The sugarbird gets sponge-cake moistened with fresh milk, and also fruit, but he only really cares for grapes. They are most delightful birds, and really very little trouble to keep. I have had them about four months, and they seem to be always healthy. The sugarbird sings quite well, though quietly.

I am afraid these notes are getting far too long, but, I think, the sad story of my little Vernal Hanging Parrakeets (*Loriculus vernalis*) may not be without interest. The man I got them from bought them from a sailor, and when they came into my hands were in very fair form, and plump, but with cut wing-flights, so I was forced to cage them. With me, once they had tasted it, they refused everything but fruit; they had been fed on *toast* for a week by the man I got them from, who got them from a sailor in Leith docks. I am afraid the liberal quantities of fruit which I supplied them with, following on such strange (unnatural) diet, proved their undoing, as they very soon 'went West."

The Red-breasted (Migratory) Thrush or American Robin in Surrey.

Reprinted from *The Field*, May 14th, with our apologies and thanks to the Editor and proprietors.—Ed. "B.N."

"In the Spring of 1909 seventeen of these birds were imported from the United States and placed in a large aviary belonging to Lord Northcliffe at Sutton Place, near Guildford. Early in June of that year several eggs were laid in old nests of thrushes and blackbirds which were fixed up in the aviary. Some of the eggs were transferred to thrushes' and blackbirds' nests in the grounds. Twenty-four young birds were known to have been hatched by the middle of July, and the local thrushes were constantly seen feeding them on the lawns."

"After this the adult American robins. with the exception of two or three pairs, were released from the aviary. Some of them paired and soon commenced nest-building. Two of the nests were built in cedars, and others were found in the wild garden by the river Wey, and in a copse in the park. They were composed chiefly of dry grass from a meadow just beyond the terrace. The cock birds were heard to sing finely."

"These facts were published anonymously in a local paper by "A

Bird-lover" in July, 1909. Since that date I have heard nothing of them, and it would be of great interest to learn whether any of the birds remained either in the neighbourhood where they were introduced (or further afield) or whether they followed their migratory instinct and disappeared. Perhaps some reader can give information on the subject. J. E. HARTING."

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Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

MRS. BURGESS' BIRDROOM AND BIRDS.

(Continued from page 99).

Varied Lorikeets (*Ptilosclera versicolor*). But for the absence of purple on the crown I first thought Mrs. Burgess' trio of birds were the Purple-capped, and though being, I think, immature they may yet turn out to be that species; but though very richly coloured on the top of the head and the area of scarlet more extensive than is usual, when fully developed I think they will prove to be Varieds.

A more richly coloured trio of this species I have never seen, nor yet any in better feather or general condition, and I certainly hope there'll be a true pair among them and that Mrs. Burgess may prove successful in breeding them.

A pair I procured in 1904 I found perfectly charming and easy to cater for; of this pair in Bird Notes for 1907 I wrote as follows: "This lovely species once acclimatised is as hardy and accommodating as the Cockateel. I found my pair too much trouble to keep clean in a cage, so early in the spring they were turned out of doors into the general aviary, not with the parrakeets, as Varieds must have milksop and I did not care to introduce this diet into the parrakeet aviary. I have found them quite amiable, and their condition this morning (December 31st) is perfect, for I have not seen tighter, sleeker or better coloured specimens, not even on the show bench. They have made no attempt to breed. The one trouble of outdoor life for these birds is, that during frosty weather you have to thaw their milksop twice, or oftener, daily."

In Bird Notes for 1908 I further wrote: "I think it will be of general interest to state that I have had in my outdoor aviary a pair of Varied Lorikeets (*Ptiloselera versicolor*) for the past four years, and that their condition could not be possibly surpassed. . . . . Acidity of the stomach has never affected the occupants of my cages and aviaries, but I have always, at intervals, given a little Mellin's Food or Scott's emulsion in the milksop, and for an ailing *Lorius* nothing can equal these remedies, which, if given in time, will mostly save the patient. It has been my experience that when kept with other species, the *Loriidae* will take a more varied diet, ie., learn that there are other good things besides milksop and fruit." ,

Later experience confirmed what I have quoted above. In 1910 the hen died, and in 1912, when dismantling my aviaries, owing to a change of residence, I sold the cock, and for two years he was very successful on the show bench for his new owner.

RED-COLLARED LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*). These again, like most of Mrs. Burgess' birds, were perfect, not a feather out of place, and for richness of colour not to be surpassed.

There will be no cause, after the comprehensive article on this species in our last issue, to give lengthy notes on the keeping of this species, but a few notes on my pair will not be out of place.

My pair came into my possession as follows: In 1907, together with Mr. O. Millsum, and the late Col. (then Capt.) Perreau, I paid a visit to the "Little Zoo," Bath, to see Payne and Wallace's fine consignment of Australian birds. Among others were three Red-collared Lorikeets and I bought a pair of them for £10; they were then quite rare. One of them got badly shaken up during the rail journey from Bath, and died the next day. Messrs. Payne and Wallace replaced it free. Thus came into my possession one of the most charming and interesting pair of birds I have ever possessed, and it was sadly I packed them for transit to Miss Drummond four years later, when, owing to a change of residence, I parted with most of my birds.

When I, or even a stranger, entered the aviary, it was simply as a perch for those two birds; they simply crawled over one, and more than once unknowingly I brought them out on my shoulder, but never lost them; I was, however, afraid to have them out—cats abounded, and I feared if these pests did not make a surprise capture they might scare them into flying away out of sight.

I had them three years or more; when I first received them I kept them in an indoor enclosure, then a few months later transferred them to the general aviary, which contained the Varied Lorikeets, and a collection of small *passerine* birds. Here they did not make mischief, but about a year later I caught one of them mauling a common quail; and I looked about for other quarters for them. Between my birdroom and aviary was a narrow space with a frontage of 30 inches, and a depth of 9 feet by 6 feet high. I netted this in, making them a sort of box shelter with a floor space of only 20 inches by 30 inches. Here they spent a happy two and a half years; one of the winters there was a spell of really arctic weather lasting nearly a month without a break—company's water mains were frozen!—yet these birds took no harm, and appeared to revel in it; they certainly never looked the least ailing or depressed the whole period!

They played and rolled about together like young puppies and gambolled together like monkeys—it was rare fun to sit and watch them. They also burrowed into the ground like rabbits, on one occasion burrowing their way into the parrakeet aviary.

My readers will understand the regret with which I parted with them, but there was no alternative—a certain group of birds had to go, as I knew it would take me a year to reinstate the aviaries at my new place—the birds I kept were kindly housed for me by a fellow member, Mr. A. Sutcliffe.

Their main dietary was milksop, but they ate a little seed, also as much fruit as I cared to give, and greenfood—they were very fond of flowering and seeding grass, especially the tall growing varieties.

BLACK LORIES (*Chalcopsittacus ater*): Black they are by name and also colour, yet sombre no. I have yet to see a sombre coloured Lory.

Mrs. Burgess' pair were very fine, tame also; but I fear they will not breed in the space she can give them, yet this is not hopeless.

Their glistening black plumage under the play of light scintillates forth many hues, and the patch of warm colouring (under tail-coverts) make them beautiful birds indeed.

I think I am right in stating that so far Mr. E. J. Brook is the only one who has successfully bred this species in captivity, *vide* BIRD NOTES, Vol. VIII., *first series.*

BLACK-CAPPED LORIES (*Lorius lory*): When writing of the *Loriidae* one exhausts the vocabulary of adjectives and yet one cannot exaggerate.

This species is fully as gorgeous as the preceding species, as the following sketchy description indicates:

Adult. Crown black; sides of the head, throat, sides of breast and abdomen, lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts red; hind neck, interscapular region and breast blue; abdomen and under tail-coverts bright blue; wings green; tail dark red at base, greenish in the middle, then dark blue; beak red; feet black.

It ranges over "North-western New Guinea, Salwatty, Batanta, Waigiou, and Mysol." (B.M.C., vol. xx., p. 34).

Another pair of faultless birds of which any bird-keeper might well be proud.

WHITE-BACKED LORY (*Eos fuscata*); While the hues of this species are not so glisteningly brilliant as some of the foregoing, yet it is equally beautiful, containing in its varied coloured garment nearly every hue of the rainbow; and without any sharp contrasts. Mrs. Burgess may well be envied the possession of so rare and beautiful a bird. Her specimen was uncannily tame and in faultless condition.

On the occasion of my visit time did not permit me to take a full description of its plumage, so I will quote from the B.M.C. *in extenso.*

Adult. "Dusky brown; vertex and a band on the nape reddish orange; middle of abdomen and tibia red; feathers of the hind neck, interscapular region, and lower throat edged with reddish, or greyish, or even with olive colour; lower back, and uropygium yellowish white; under tail-coverts purple-blue; the wings show a purple tinge on the primary-coverts and on the anterior great-coverts; the innermost great-coverts and the inner secondaries have a tinge of chestnut; primaries with a slight tinge of olive on the outer edges, and with the inner web red towards the base; under wing-coverts partly red; tail above greyish purple, the central tail-feathers towards the base reddish; tail-feathers beneath red at the base of the inner web, reddish olive towards the tips; bill red or orange-yellow; feet dusky; iris red. Total length 10.5 inches, wing 6.3, tail 3.5, bill 0.88, tarsus 0.69." (B.M.C., vol. xx., p. 33). *Habitat.* "New Guinea, Jobi, Salwathy." (B.M.C.)

Even so full a description as the above does not do justice to the rainbow-hued garment of this species, though the main features are given, but a word picture of this species is but a poor apology for the living bird.

I will deal with the parrots and parrakeets in the next instalment.

(*To be continued*).

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The Ring-necked Pheasant *(Phasianus torquatus.)*

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The keeping of fancy pheasants forms a very pleasing side of aviculture. Elaborate accommodation is not required, though space is almost a *sine qua non* to successful breeding under natural conditions, as also is the case if the birds are to deport themselves at all naturally.

Perhaps the chief charm of this group is their beautiful and gorgeous colouration, combined with fine shapely contour; and their most disappointing feature is the proneness of the males to savage the hens, in some cases after they have lived together in amity for several years.

However, I propose, first to describe them, give their wild life, then their life in captivity, and lastly indicate suitable accommodation.

Description: As one never knows that they are absolutely pure bred Ring-necks in this country, unless one purchases newly imported specimens, I am quoting the description from Gould's *Birds of Asia in extenso*, as follows:

"The *male* has the forehead deep green; crown of the head fawn colour glossed with green; over each eye a conspicuous streak of buff white; the naked papillated skin of the orbits and sides of the face deep scarlet or blood-red, interspersed beneath the eye with a series of very minute black feathers; horn-like tufts on each side of the head; throat and neck rich deep, shining green with violet reflections; near the base of the neck a conspicuous collar of shining white feathers, narrow before and behind, and broadly dilated at the sides; the feathers of the back of the neck black, with a narrow mark of white down the centre of the back portion, and a lengthened mark of ochreous-yellow within the edge of each web near the tip; the feathers of back and scapularies black at the base, with a streak of white in the middle, then buff surrounded with a distinct narrow band of black, to which succeeds an outer fringe of chestnut; the feathers of the back black, with numerous zigzag and crescentic marks of buffy white; lower part of the back, rump and upper tail-coverts light green of various shades, passing into bluish-grey at the sides, below which is a mark of rufous; breast feathers, indented at the tip, of a rich reddish chestnut, with purple reflections, and each bordered with black; flanks, fine buff, with a large angular spot of beautiful violet at the tip; centre of the abdomen black, with violet reflections; under tail-coverts reddish chestnut; wing-coverts silvery-grey; wings brown, the primaries with light shafts, and crossed with narrow bars of light buff; the secondaries similar but not so regularly marked as the primaries; tail feathers olive, fringed with different shades of reddish violet, crossed at regular intervals with broad, conspicuous black bands, passing into reddish-brown on the sides of the basal portion of the six central feathers; bill yellowish-horn colour; irides yellow; feet greyish-white."

"The *female* has the whole of the upper surface brownish-black, with a margin of buff to every feather; the throat whitish, and the central portion of the under surface fawn colour; flanks mottled with brown; tail buff, barred with dark brown, between which are other interrupted bars of the same hue. The marks are broader on the the two central feathers than on the others, and, moreover, do not reveal the edge on either side."

Wild Life: This is one of the most common species in China, abounding in vast numbers in the hill coverts and cotton fields (Swinhoe).

The common Chinese pheasant is found everywhere in the north of China. I am not aware how much farther south they are found than Shanghai; but in that neighbourhood, since the devastation of the country by the Tai-pings, they are shot by hundreds. Thousands are brought down to the Pekin market in a frozen state by the Mongols, from as far north as Amour. At the new Russian port of Poussiet, conterminous with the Corea, the same pheasant abounds. I myself have seen them wild in the Imperial hunting grounds north of Jehol, and in the mountains of Ku-pe-kow (Saurin).

The species swarms in Formosa, but this local variety differs in having the flanks paler than the typical form; it has been given specific rank as *P. formosanus* to which it is not entitled, being merely a local race of *P. torquatus*.

Their characteristics in their native wilds are very similar to what they are in this country. They lay early and produce an abundant supply of eggs. They are of bold flight, rising quickly, but noisily from the covert and then fly swiftly straight ahead.

In English Coverts and Captivity: In English coverts it is now difficult to find either a pure Ring-neck, or Common pheasant (*P. colchicus*) owing to the interbreeding of the two species (the Ring-necks being great wanderers)—the cross-breds are perfectly fertile, not only when paired with pure breds of either species, but also *inter se*. The cross-breds vary considerably in plumage, the neck-collar in some individuals being only indicated by a few stray white feathers; in others the neck-collar

Photo E. O. Page.

Hen Ring-necked Pheasant incubating.

Nest just above ×.

Photo by *E. O. Page.*

♂ Ring-necked Pheasant. Just above × is incubating hen.

is as perfect as in the pure bird, and the plumage as a whole almost identical with that of the wild species. In many localities the interbreeding has been carried still further and the birds comprise more or less in their plumage the colouration of three species, viz: *P. torquatus*, *colchicus* and *versicolor*. Some years ago, after a shoot in his preserves, Capt. J. S. Reeve sent me a male and two females—the male bird was an instance of this triple-species form, *P. versicolor* being dominant in the plumage, with both *colchicus* and *torquatus* clearly indicated—I have regretted many times since that I did not have the skin preserved.

In captivity *torquatus* is a hardy bird, our worst weather not affecting it in the least; it is also very beautiful, and in a roomy run (flight) is an object of admiration to all who see it. I had better here describe the origin of my pair. In 1917 my fellow member Miss M. L. Harbord took a clutch of thirteen eggs from a sitting wild bird (Lorton Park, Cumberland) and put them under a domestic hen; every egg hatched out, but owing to a chapter of accidents only three were reared; these were sent to me when about three months old; one, probably a hen, died two days after arrival; the other two were both cocks, and ultimately, when in full plumage, scarcely to be distinguished from the wild species. The following spring Capt. J. S. Reeve kindly sent me four hens from his coverts at Leadenham; these were very wild when first turned out, and one so damaged its skull that it soon died, though in a very roomy enclosure; another following it a year later. The other two are still living, one paired to a Ring-neck, and the other to a Gold Pheasant. It is more than possible that these hens contain the blood of three species, viz: *torquatus*, *colchicus* and *versicolor;* while the cocks are *apparently* almost pure *torquatus*—they certainly are so in plumage. It is with this pair I propose to deal.

I should say my main object is to breed under natural conditions, and not to rear, as is the common custom, by the aid of domestic hens. For two years they had the run of my largest aviary, where they did not interfere with the small *passerine* birds (foreign species) occupying it. The first year the hen made a scrape and laid during the season over sixty eggs, but made no attempt to sit, though the scrape was well screened by the low, spreading branches of a *Cupressus* bush; the following year she made several scrapes, all well hidden, under respective bushes, but again made no attempt to sit, producing from forty to fifty eggs, some were eaten but most were given to a friend to hatch out under poultry.

They had, however, made themselves somewhat of a nuisance in the aviary fine as they looked: (1) By keeping it clear of ground herbage and thus preventing a pair of Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) from breeding. (2) The hen flew wildly whenever the aviary was entered (perfectly quiet otherwise) and several nests in the bushes were thereby spoiled. In March of this year I took them down to my small holding and gave them an unoccupied poultry run, consisting of a lofty shed 25ft. x 14ft., with a run of similar dimensions, netted in with 2in. mesh netting. The ground, however, was bare, except for patches of grass and other weeds, with nettles growing in places against netting and back fence.

They were very wild at first, and I was afraid the hen would kill herself against the netting whenever I entered to feed them, as she flew so wildly, bashing into any object that came in the way of her wild flight, often falling half stunned after colliding with the netting—nearly every morning wild hen pheasants rose from outside the aviary when I went to feed them. In about a fortnight things improved somewhat, and she only ran away to the full extremity of either shed or flight and there squatted motionless.

Early in April a scrape was made between two clumps of nettles, against the front wire netting—no lining was at first put in, but after about four eggs were deposited the scrape (nest) was lined with grass, and the eggs regularly covered with grass bents till incubation commenced, which event took place on May 6th. She has sat steadily since, and one can touch her without her moving, save for turning her head and closely watching the intruder. Since incubation commenced the nettles have so grown that the hen is obscured, and a number of leaves were cut away to open up the nest, without disturbing the hen, for the purpose of taking the photo.

While the photo of the male was being taken he did not go six feet away from the nest the whole period, but strutted to and fro in front of the nest the whole time, his movements being too quick for the exposure speed light permitted, for out of five exposures all, save the one reproduced, showed double figures of some portion of the bird.

I am afraid, owing to the wide mesh of the netting, I shall lose most of the young when hatched, but I shall take as many of the young as I can as soon as they are old enough to leave their mother, and confine them elsewhere.

I have found young pheasants easy to rear on insectile mixture (custard for first few days), seed, dried ants' "eggs," and a few gentles—they soon take to a seed diet.

Accommodation: As already stated this need not be elaborate. A shed, which need only be small, with partly open front, say about 6ft. square, and a run about 20ft. x 10ft. The run should contain several bushes, of low spreading growth (Elder, Berberis and *Thuja depressa*), and ground herbage of grass and coarse growing weeds.

A pair of Parrots or Parrakeets could be kept in each pheasant enclosure.

◆

The Cape Dove *(Œna capensis.)*

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

This pretty and graceful dove has been known to aviculture for a long period, and, as it has been fairly plentiful on the market lately, a few remarks upon its native habits, treatment and life in captivity will probably be of interest.

It is also known as the Harlequin, Naquama, and Masked Dove, and it is by the latter name that it has been offered recently; but the cognomen at the head of these notes is the most accepted avicultural apellation for it.

It is numerous in Tropical and Southern Africa, and less so in Madagascar and Arabia.

Description (Adult male). General body colouration a sort of palish brownish-cinnamon-grey; two black bands across the rump with the space between buffish-brown; black face mask;

inner wing-coverts adorned with two large shining patches of blue-black; tail black and white; breast and abdomen creamy-white; beak orange at the tip merging into crimson at the base; legs and feet deep fleshy-red. The tail is long and pointed. *Female*—A washed-out replica of the male with white face mask.

Juvenile Plumage.—Closely resembles the female parent, but is greyer in tone; and the crown, neck, and median wing-coverts with black or blackish bands; beak black; legs and feet purplish.

Wild Life.—It frequents wooded steppes, farms, cattle kraals, and gardens. Its flight is undulating and weak. The nest, a fragile structure of twigs, is mostly placed in palms and acacia trees, sometimes on the ground—the late Col. Horsbrugh found it in the latter position at Bloemfontein, and briefly describes it as follows: " One of the nests was on the top of a " furrow in a ploughed field, and not a bush was near it. I " presume the eggs must have been near hatching time, as " the little hen would only go a few feet away from her " treasures, and as soon as I moved away she flew to them at " once and settled herself down in a most confidential " manner."

It spends most of its time upon the ground. During the breeding season the males are very quarrelsome. The call is *Hoo-roo-roo*, and, as it is uttered the tail is outspread and extended upwards.

In Captivity.—Though they have never bred with me, I have found them alert, interesting, and very pleasing occupants of the aviary. With me they spent much of their time upon the ground picking out seed from the growing grass and from clumps of the same thrown in for them. Their flight is weak but frequently indulged in; it is finch-like and undulating. Earlier writers have described them as delicate and needing warm quarters during the cold months of the year. I have not found this to be so, and have had no difficulty in keeping them out of doors all the year, and, strange to say, I have found the hens the more enduring. During the war a hen, which had already spent several years in a Surrey aviary, was an inmate of my largest aviary for three years, and was certainly one of the cheeriest birds in the aviary. However, they do not like damp, and a wet, mild winter is more likely to carry them off than a very severe and frosty one, and for those aviarists whose aviaries are built upon clay and other wet-retaining soils, this species had better be kept in a dry shed from October to April inclusive, but they certainly do not need artificial heat.

They are handsome birds in the aviary, and are soon noticed by visitors; the creamy hues of the under plumage, warm brown of the upper surface, orange-crimson beaks, and deep red legs and feet, make them very attractive and single them out for notice at once; equally so does their graceful contour and deportment; neither is their call (coo) *Hoo-roo-roo*, disturbing or unmusical.

I cannot describe them as free breeders, for but few instances are on record of the successful rearing of young. Some pairs are poor brooders of the young, then if the weather be at all cold they soon succumb, even if all but fully fledged. During the past few years a few young have been successfully reared by Mr. H. E. Bright in his aviaries near Liverpool.* Thus, they can be bred, and I see no reason why they should not be bred more freely in the future. One of the difficulties that has stood in the way of this has been, that hitherto most of the consignments have consisted almost entirely of males, and with a species in which the plumage of the sexes is so distinct this can be easily remedied by importers. Odd birds of this species are certainly dull, lethargic and uninteresting, but a mated pair are very different.

I should say the probability of them breeding in a cage or large box is remote, but given a roomy shed or quarters in an outdoor aviary there is a reasonable prospect of their doing so.

Their diet in captivity is mainly millet and canary seed, and upon this they do well, though they certainly pick over a small grain mixture, but soon turn again to the seed-pan.

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* Short details appeared in BIRD NOTES, 1919 and 1920 Vols.

◆

Correspondence.

UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF BUDGERIGARS IN CAPTIVITY.

Sir,—Last year my birds were accommodated in a span-roof stone building; about 18ft. from the ground a stone projected outwards. on which birds alighted. One day I was surprised to see mortar on the floor beneath the stone. and on looking upwards found a pair of Budgerigars busy making a hole in the wall, which they accomplished in the end.

The wall is hollow, and they actually managed to scoop out a cavity in the stone and laid eggs therein, to the number of six; of these five hatched out, in spite of the coldness of the stone.

They obviously preferred this to wooden boxes. etc.. of which a number were vacant in the room.

St. Annes-on-Sea, May 1st, 1921. A. E. SNAPE.

◆

THE COMING OF THE CUCKOO.

Sir,—The " Harbinger of Spring " was first heard in this district, by me, on April 13th at 7 a.m., and from then on its pleasant call has been heard daily. I do not think it is so numerous this year as last, as I've, so far, only heard one bird calling at the same time, and it has been here a month now. Last year the birds were very numerous and were calling from all points of the compass at the same time, or nearly so, making a sort of sound-chain, cuckoo, cuckoo *ad infinitum.* To-day, May 19th, two (possibly a pair) passed over my holding, but only one was calling.

This year I have been too much occupied to note the coming of the other migrants, though I have seen most of them now.

Lingfield, Surrey, May 28th, 1921. WESLEY T. PAGE.

◆

OBITUARY NOTICE.

Sir.—It is with deep regret that I have to chronicle the death of Mr. Walter Gilbey Percival from pneumonic plague at the hospital, Narobi, on March 14th.

Only four or five days prior to his death I was chatting with him, and, apparently he seemed in his usual health. He referred with pleasure to his recent visit to England, and the happy time he spent at your house. He had only been back in this colony about a fortnight when he died. I attended the funeral, where those of his friends who could be present paid their last respect to a departed comrade.

Burials, in the tropics, take place a few hours after death; and poor Percival was dead and buried before many of his friends knew he was ill.

Percival was a keen and enthusiastic aviculturist and angler. His success in catching and keeping Sunbirds was probably exceeded by few aviculturists. On the occasion of our last conversation, a few days before his death, he was discussing the making of a proposed shipment of live birds to England in the near future.

The irony of Percival's death was that his eldest brother, the Game Warden of this Colony, arrived from England to find his brother unconscious and dying.

Narobi, B.E. Africa; 17:iii.:21. E. W. HARPER.

[The above is part of a private letter to myself. and I thought the sad record of our member's death could be best recorded by printing the above. I have lost a respected and esteemed friend. During his visit to me we arranged for live birds. especially ***Nectarinidæ***, to be shipped this spring and summer, and he took out with him a full equipment to this end. I also arranged with him to contribute a series of field notes on the birds of B.E. Africa to BIRD NOTES, also his experience of keeping them in captivity. The day before he sailed I spent with him in London, and little thought, when we said good-bye, it was the long, last farewell. To his sorrowing relatives we express our sincere sympathy.—ED.]

◆

SEX DISTINCTION OF JAVAN PARRAKEET, ETC.

SIR,—There is a printer's error in my note on parrot calls, page 99 of last issue, which rather destroys the sense of one sentence, viz: " Even those that have been tamed." This should read: *even those which have not been tamed.*

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

◆

A SEMI-ALBINO CHAFFINCH.

SIR,—You asked me to let you know some particulars about a curious coloured Chaffinch I caught here some time ago and put in my aviray.

In October 1920 I noticed, among the chaffinches which flocked in my garden to feed on the beech mast. one that had a great deal of white in its plumage than is normal. I put down some canary seed under a beech tree for a few days, and, when I saw that the chaffinches came and ate it regularly as soon as it was put down, I put a large sparrow-trap I have when they became accustomed to feed on the seed; but, for a few days, although I caught plenty of ordinary chaffinches, I did not capture the one I wanted. At last patience was rewarded, and one morning he was a prisoner. He is marked in a very peculiar way; his head and body have a lot of white upon them, giving one the impression that he is a dirty white bird at a distance; but when you get nearer you see that he has a number of the russet feathers of the cock chaffinch on his breast, and yellow feathers on his back and wings; he has dark feathers in his tail and among his flight feathers, and a certain number about his head and body, so that it is difficult to give an accurate description of his colouring.

In the sparrow-trap with him was an ordinary hen chaffinch, and I put her in the aviary with him; she was very tame and came down to feed with the other birds at once, but unfortunately only lived a few days. I was sorry, as I thought they might have bred some curious coloured birds. The cock was very wild, and is so even now in spite of having been in captivity so long.

I was assured that the bird would moult into an ordinary chaffinch at his first moult, but this was not the case—after the moult there was no difference in his colouring.

I did not put a mate into the aviary for him last season, as I thought I had made a mistake in his sex, and he showed no signs of wanting a mate last season; this season, however, I have heard him sing several times, and he calls to the wild ones round the aviary, but I have never heard him utter the familiar "finlu, finlu" of the "finlu." I must get a mate for him for another season now that I am certain what his sex is.

My aviary at the present time is not of much interest from an avicultural point of view. A great number of Canaries and some Silverbills, the Chaffinch mentioned above and one unfortunate Hedge Sparrow that was a prisoner in the trap with the chaffinch, and which I dare not release for fear of losing him; however, it seems perfectly contented with its lot.

Sturminster Newton, May 23rd, 1921. R. E. P. GORRINGE.

◆

Editorial.

A YOUNG CRANE AT THE ZOO: In *The Field* for May 21st appears a short note on this interesting episode, from which we glean the following details: A pair of Japanese White-necked Cranes (*Peudogeranus leucauchen*) have occupied a large paddock in the north garden for some years; for the last two or three years the birds have attempted to breed, but the eggs have been addled. This year, however, a young White-neck has been hatched out—the first occasion, we believe, that a crane of any species has been hatched at the Zoo. The nest was made at the bottom of the slope near the canal, and placed near to the wire fence. The nest was composed of straw and grass. Two eggs were laid, the first on March 31st, the second eight days later; after an incubation period of thirty-five days one egg hatched out, presumably the first laid one. The young chick is clothed in reddish down, with lighter patches at the shoulders, becoming almost white on the under-face. It is to be hoped the young bird lives to reach maturity.

NESTING NOTES: Mrs. H. E. Bright (Woolton, Liverpool) reports (May 27th) the following episodes as a commencement of the season:

Young on the wing:

2 Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
Masked Doves (*Œna capensis*).
Geoffroy's Doves (*Peristera geoffroyi*).

VIRGINIAN CARDINALS (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) nested and incubated closely, but their three eggs were addled. They are now sitting again.

BLUE GROSBEAKS (*Guiraca cyanea*). These nested, laid and incubated well, with the result that one egg hatched out, did well for a few days, and then disappeared. They are building again.

The following species have nests and possibly eggs in some cases:

Rock Buntings (*Fringillaria tahapisi*).
Blue Robins (*Silia sialis*).
Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*).
Masked Grassfinches (*P. personata*).
Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*).
Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*).
Peaceful Doves (*G. tranquilla*).
Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*).

American Robins (*Turdus migratorious*) have started to build; also an American Robin paired with an English Thrush are doing likewise.

Rosella and Red-rump Parrakeets, also Cockateels are all nesting, and the two latter have eggs.

There are other pairs showing signs of nesting, probably have nests, but I have not yet found them.

Baltimore Hangnests (*Icterus galbula*). The most interesting event is the nesting of my pair of Hangnests. They have been very busy building a deep pocket-shaped nest; it has been most interesting to watch progress as the nest grew longer and longer—it has been gradually pushed downward till the base rests on two slight twigs. At the time of writing they are incubating two eggs, and I shall try to rear the young. The nest is placed in a thinly foliaged holly bush, quite near the walk, so observation without disturbance has been very easy and pleasing. As yet I have failed to get a good photo of the nest.

Capt. J. S. Reeve (Leadenham, Lincoln) reports that Triangular-spotted Pigeons (*Columba maculosa*), and Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotos haematonotus*) have successfully reared young, and that Cirl Buntings and Bearded Tits have made good, but unsuccessful, attempts to rear their kind. In most instances they are nesting again.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide rules page ii. *of cover.*

HOODED PARRAKEET ♂ : Tavistock. The Marquis of.—This bird died of pneumonia. It had apparently never been able to fly, and the cold killed it.

GREY PARROT ♀ : C. Dell.—This bird had enteritis and bronchitis. It is difficult to say which caused its death.

BLUE BUDGERIGAR ♀ : Theo. Foster.—The cause of death was egg-binding.

BLUE BUDGERIGAR ♀ : E. E. Pyeman.—The bird was decomposed.

BUDGERIGAR ♂ : Mrs. Sebag-Montifiore.—The bird had a filsoma of the liver. This is an overgrowth of the fibrous connective tissue between the liver cells. which extends and gradually strangles the liver cells. It is curious that with only a small portion of the liver functioning the bird was otherwise in perfect condition.

GOLD-BREASTED WAXBILL ♂ : E. Boosey.—This bird died of enteritis with terminal congestion of the lungs.

N. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.
Hon. Pathologist.

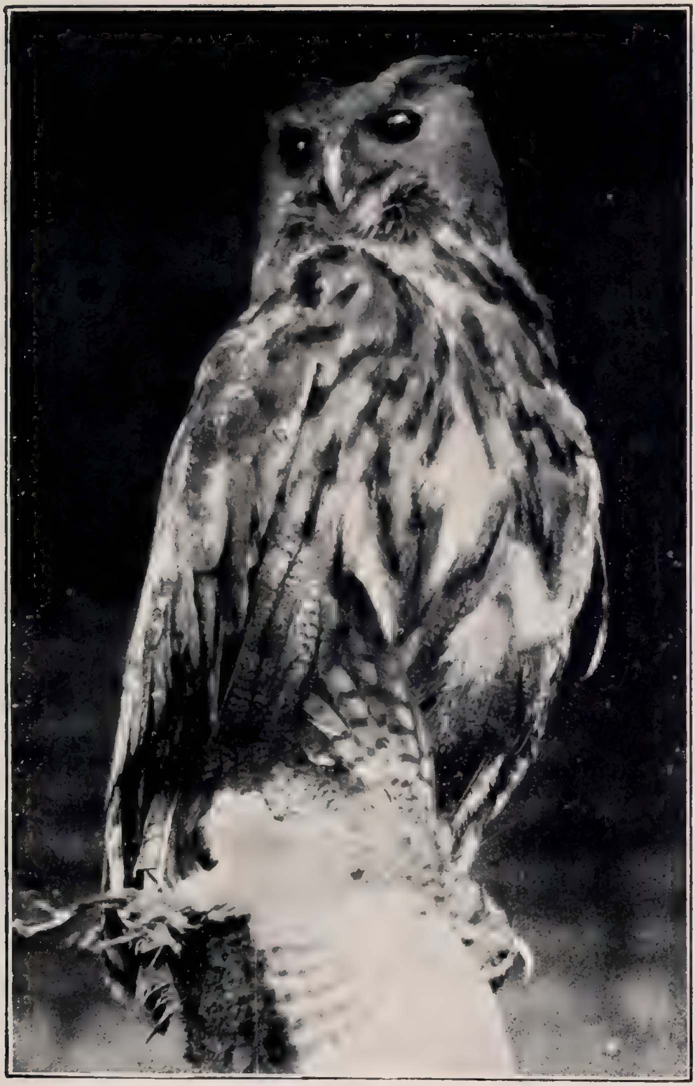

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

European Eagle Owl.

(Bubo ignavus).

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Some Owls in My Aviaries.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

To keepers of Birds of Prey this time of the year is always rather a difficult one in the matter of food supplies. In the first place, if these are obtained from the local butcher, they generally arrive in rather a smelly condition, and are difficult to keep long, without becoming a crawling mass of maggots; and if, on the other hand, they are obtained from wild life, matters are still worse, as the rats, the most useful form at any rate of owl food, have left the buildings, where they usually swarm, for the fields and countryside, where they are difficult to capture; and birds which in the winter and shooting season form no small source of supply are now nesting, and one hates to destroy them at this time, even if they belong to the, so called, noxious species.

In my aviaries I now have five different varieties of Owls: Pairs of:

Bengal Eagle Owl (*Bubo bengalensis*).
African Spotted Eagle Owl (*B. maculosus*).
Falkland Island Eagle Owl (*B. virginianus falkland islandii*)
Also a single specimen of European Eagle Owl (*B. ignavus*)

This last named bird is, I believe, a hen, and is a magnificent specimen; it easily dwarfs all the others in size. It was a mascot on one of the warships stationed in Russia during the war, and has evidently been used to being handled. In spite of this it is rather a timid bird.

One reads in nature stories, now so popular in the monthly magazines, of the great strength of Owls and other birds of prey, and quite recently I saw it stated that a Virginian Owl

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Bengal Eagle Owl (*Bubo bengalensis*).

had carried off a hen turkey from the nest, after having devoured a clutch of a dozen eggs or so. All I can say is, that if *B. virginianus* is capable of carrying off a 15lb. turkey, *Bubo* *ignavus* should be capable of tackling an ostrich. I have seen a good many of the American Eagle Owls, and have both taken its eggs and captured the bird alive, but have never shot it. although I have had plenty of opportunities of doing so, and have been asked more than once to destroy a particularly destructive pair. As a matter of fact around homesteads they do a good deal of damage to the poultry, and I have known them carry off an Aylesbury duck weighing six or seven pounds. My birds are the southern form and came from the Falkland Islands. They only differ, as far as I can see, in the lighter colouration of their plumage, which is more grey and not so brown as the common northern forms. With their large ear-tufts they are attractive looking birds in their lofty aviary, and are quiet and docile. So far, and I have had them over six months, I have not yet heard their call, neither have they looked

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*
African Spotted Eagle Owl (*B. maculosa*).

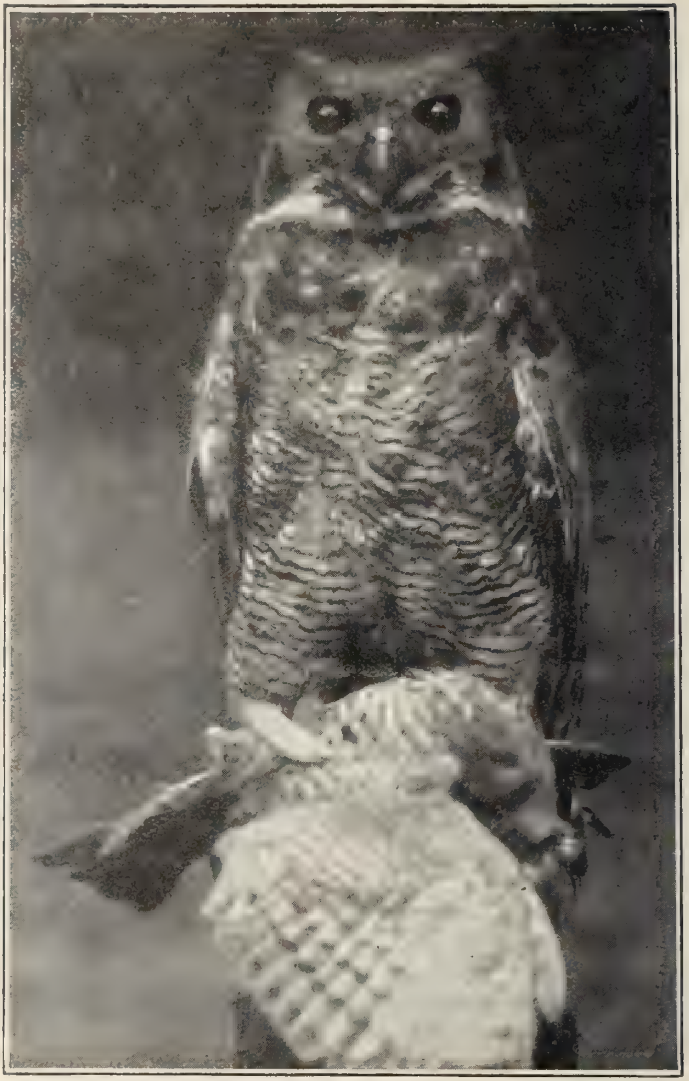

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Falkland Island Eagle Owl (*B. virginianus falklandii*).

at all like breeding, although from their difference in size I judge them to be a true pair. It is probable that like some of the other large birds of prey, they do not come into breeding condition until several years old.

My Rock Horned Owls have also made no attempt whatever at nesting, but these birds call a good deal at night, and I think from this that they are more likely to start housekeeping than the others; but these aso are young birds. Their call is a hoarse wheeze or grunt and not very loud. In fact none of my Owls are anything like as noisy as our British Owls, of which four species are quite common in this district. The tawny and barn owls' voices are to be heard most nights in their singing season, but just at present they are silent, having, in all probability, nests of hungry youngsters to cater for in the neighbouring plantations.

My Spotted Eagle Owls are the only ones that have shown signs of nesting. The cock has on two or three occasions prepared a scrape, and has done his very best to get the hen to occupy it. It has been very amusing to watch his endeavours to get her to share his proposed nesting site, but only once or twice have I seen him entice her by the aid of a particularly choice tit-bit in the way of a mouse or small bird, to share it with him; but, even then, she has been unable to make up her mind to lay. Possibly the supply of really freshly killed meat has been insufficient. The call of these birds, which is often heard both by day and night, is a loud clear *Hoo-oo*, followed by a short *Hoo* about an octave lower, and it is much more musical than that of any of the other Owls that I have heard, although I used to think that the little burrowing owl's note was very pleasing when heard on the plains of Southern California. In the photos herewith the strong likeness between *B. bengalensis* and *B. ignavus* will be noted, and the difference in size between the latter bird and *B. falkland islandii* can also be seen, as both birds were photoed on the same Sparrow Hawk.

◆

Nesting in My Birdroom.

By Mrs. M. Burgess, F.Z.S.

Possibly a few notes of the doings of my birds in their indoor flights may be of some interest to my fellow members. Up to the present (June 9th) I have the following young *on the wing*, unless otherwise stated.

BUDGERIGARS: Of Blues there are 10 fine young birds. Of Olives and blue-bred Greens fully a score—there are many more in the husks.

It may be of interest to state that the Bristol Zoo have bred a lovely Blue from a pair of my blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

I have one *new-coloured* baby Budgerigar from light new-coloured French pair, which I must describe later.

COCKATEELS (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*). These have made a bad start, the only result so far being two eggs with young dead in the shell.

BLACK-CAP LORIES (*Lorius lory*). The *crowning glory*, to me, is a baby, seven to ten days old, of this species. Is it a breeding-medal episode, please, or has someone succeeded previously? [I do not think, writing from memory, that this species has been bred; so, in the event of the young bird living to fend for itself, Mrs. Burgess would be entitled to a medal.—ED.]. I cannot give many details. This pair of birds have been with me nearly a year; they came from the Marquis of Tavistock. They took second prize (my White-backed Lorikeet being first) at Newport show in November last. They are a most perfect and gifted pair, laughing, etc., all day, and simply devoted to each other—a real "Darby and Joan." On April 2nd the hen laid her first egg *outside* the box, which was put inside twice. I then thought, as the hen did not sit, that the egg had been eaten; I could not look into the box to ascertain, as the cock bird was so savage. Another egg was seen on May 4th; from that date the hen has only come out to feed, and, her hunger satisfied, returning to the nest-box at once. The cock bird goes in also at night. The youngster is about the size of a day-old chick, and apparently seven to ten days old. I was afraid of disturbing the birds, so only took a very quick glance into the nest, and cannot be sure whether the young is naked or covered with gold-coloured hairy-down. Neither can I tell which egg the young bird was hatched from; the other egg is still in the nest, and the hen bird seems to be still incubating it.

The following species have nested, and those marked with an asterisk I know have eggs.

Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*). The hen bird is keeping in the nest-box, so is probably incubating.

* White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*).

Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiae*). The hen keeps inside the nest, but the cock is still carrying material.

Nesting Notes from My New Aviaries.

By Capt. G. E. Rattigan, F.Z.S.

As I only took possession of my new place on November 11th last the aviaries are very new, and unfortunately most of the conifers, etc., which I planted for cover, have died, so the flights are a spectacle of dead bushes, surrounded by a rank growth of grass and other herbage. However, the birds have taken very kindly to their new quarters, and the results have been by no means unsatisfactory.

Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*). When I removed my pair of this species from the birdroom to the outdoor aviary they went to nest at once, constructing their nest in a dead bush, and steadily incubated a clutch of four eggs, which they duly hatched out. By the judicious use of a few mealworms the two young hatched were fully reared, and have since been sold.

Yellow-billed Cardinals (*Paroaria capitata*). I cannot find any trace of this species having been previously successfully bred in English aviaries. My pair were quite a new acquisition when turned out (sent to me as Pope Cardinals) and went to nest almost at once; three young birds were hatched out and duly left the nest. Unfortunately after a few days they contracted acute diarrhoea, and though promptly attended to two died; the other recovered and is now (June 24th) fending for itself, and has been seen by our Editor who is paying me a short visit. I will write an account of this success, with as full details as I can give, for July B.N.

Rufous-backed Mannikins (*Spermestes nigriceps*) This pretty species has also successfully reared two young birds, which I have sold, and they now adorn another Devonshire aviary.

WHITE JAVA SPARROWS (*Munia oryzivora—var alba*). These are strikingly picturesque as aviary birds, and " handsome is that handsome does " is the motto of my pair, for they have fully reared two young birds, and are nesting again.

RED-HEADED FINCHES (*Amadina erythrocephala*). These have sustained the reputation of this species as being unsatisfactory breeders, for they have nested without result; but a cock Red-head mated to a hen Cutthroat have a happy family of handsome hybrids.

BUDGERIGARS (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). These were late in making a start, and unfortunately the hen of my pair of Blues died, but the cock is mated with a hen blue-bred Green, and they have young in the husk. My other pairs of Greens, blue-bred Greens and Yellows have now mostly either eggs or young in their respective husks.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). Quite a number of this common, but interesting and perky species have been reared and sold, and there are more young in the nest, good luck to 'em.

GREEN CARDINALS (*Gubernatrix castata*). I have two pairs of this species, of which to date one pair only have nested. the eggs were all infertile, and young are being fed in the nest*-- the other pair are now building.

BULLFINCHES (*Pyrrhula europaea*). These have nested in one of my birdroom flights and are now feeding young in the nest.

The other species in the aviaries did not settle down so quickly, many being quite new acquisitions when turned out, but the following are now either building or incubating:

Gold-breasted Waxbills (first clutch failed to hatch out); Black-headed Mannikins; Cordon Bleus; Pekin Robins; Orange-cheek Waxbills; Saffron Finches, and Quail Finches.

Californian Quail are incubating a clutch of sixteen eggs.

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[*] One young bird left the nest to-day (June 29th).

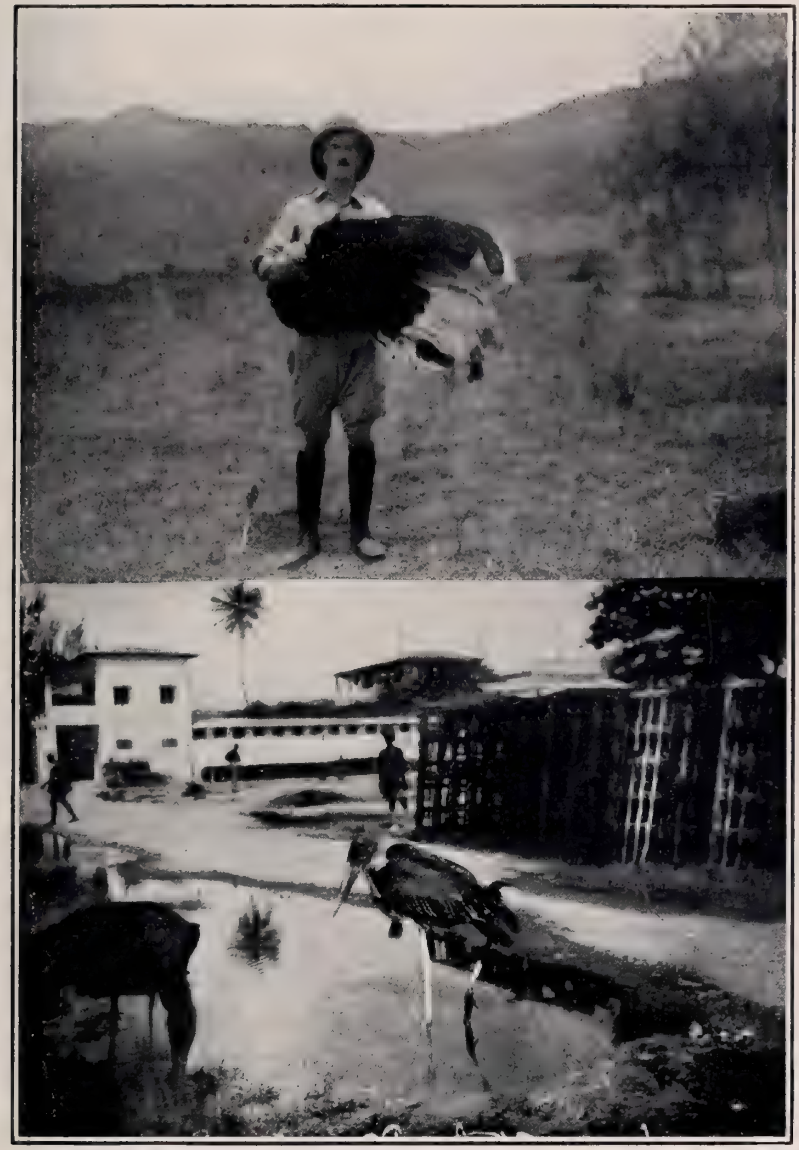

Photo F. Dawson-Smith.

Upper—F. Dawson-Smith with Tawny Eagle,
Ugong Hills

Lower—Marabout Storks at Dar-es-Salaam.

Stray Leaves from a Note Book, by the late Lieut. Frank Dawson-Smith, 5th Batt., The King's African Rifles.

[These notes by our late member will be none the less welcome because somewhat disjointed, owing to his quarters being looted

The late Lieut. F. Dawson-Smith, 1/5 K.A.F.

during the mutiny in which he lost his life; some of his belongings have been recovered and are filtering through at intervals—there are some most interesting photos, some of which will figure in future issues, even if we have to use some without titles.—Ed.]

In Somaliland: Somaliland is not a land in which I should care to spend my life, although, like most places on this earth, there are any amount of things to interest anyone who has eyes and ears for nature.

Berbera is the chief town, and, viewed from the sea, is very picturesque. It has a natural harbour formed by a long breakwater of sand, and on entering the bay or lagoon formed by this the town can be seen to the best advantage. The clear tropical air allows objects to be seen at long distances.

Here, then, is a word picture of Berbera as viewed from the sea. A foreground of water, and beyond that the town. which is divided into two parts, each possessing a small landing stage. On the right is the European quarter, consisting of white stone houses and looking restfully fresh with the brilliant green trees—palms and others which are carefully tended and watered daily. A hard sandy road connects the European with the native town. The native dwellings are of two kinds: the white buildings of the Arabs, and the stick and matting structures of the Somali. Behind Berbera are sandy planes, on which the tropical sun beats down pitilessly. In the background rise lofty and desolate mountains. That was my first picture of Berbera. As soon as a ship arrives, natives put off in canoes for the purpose of selling fish, which team in these waters; odd monkeys, eggs, pigeons, etc. These natives are expert divers, and get quite a respectable number of annas, which the men on the vessels throw over, to be cleverly caught by the diving natives at varying depths. Very few coins get lost, either, be it said. It doesn't take long to reach the shore in a boat. On the way I was strongly tempted to emulate the natives and indulge in a swim, but the fins of a shark or two protruding from the water proved a sufficient deterrent. I felt it was better to bear the ill I had than fly to others which would certainly be worse! So I remained safely in the boat, discreet and *hot*!

The birds are numerous, but I had no books on the birds of Somaliland during my stay. Some of the birds I was able to identify, but others were quite unknown to me, and those I can only describe as seen by the naked eye or field glass.

First of all, as we rowed towards the shore, were the gulls. These were of two species as far as I could see, one species being the size of a small herring gull, with black beaks, white tail and underparts, and brownish-black neck and upper breast.

Photo F. Dawson-Smith.

Pelican.

On a small sandbank were a number of terns, darker in appearance than our Arctic tern and not so pretty, but they had the same graceful, swallow-like flight, as they skimmed through the air.

In the bay were numerous pelicans. These ungainly birds were swimming quietly in the water when, suddenly, they would all fly to one spot with a good deal of flapping of wings and splashing. No doubt each time some unfortunate fish found a home in their capacious maw.

(The rest of this is missing).

In Jubaland: Jubaland swarms with gorgeous coloured birds, and it is the breeding season now (August), consequently most of the trees are clustered with various kinds of weavers' nests. These are wonderful! I often go out on my mule, or walk with my orderly into the Bush, just to watch and study them. There are so many different kinds of weavers, and the nests suspended literally in scores from bushes and trees are a marvellous sight. The trees overhanging the banks of the Juba River are festooned with them.

Photo F. Dawson-Smith.

Weavers' Nests.

There are swarms of sacred ibises, which are very tame. The whole country swarms with game—buck, guinea fowl, and grouse, ducks, etc., which come in handy for the pot.

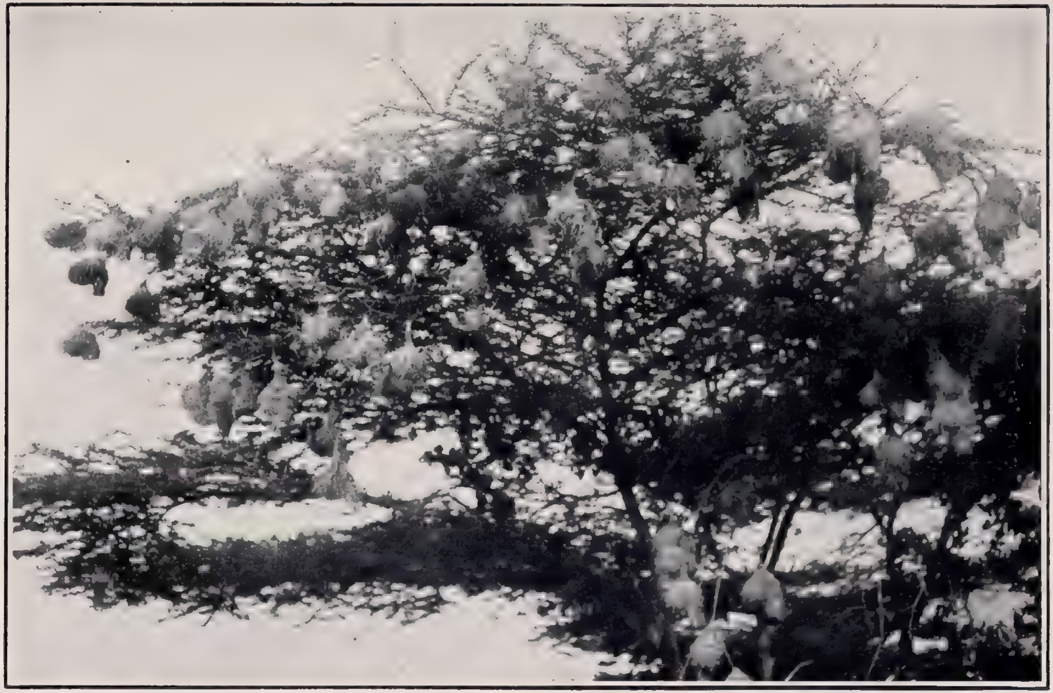

Photo F. Dawson Smith.

Weavers' Nests at Gobmen, Juhaland.

I had rather an amusing adventure. I shot, among other things, a huge vulture. It was a new kind to me, and of a very large size. It flew out of a tree and I downed it. Then (naturally supposing it to be dead), I got two of my men to hold it up while I " snapped " it. Then one of the men carried it on, as I wanted its skin. Two miles farther on I heard a frightened shout, behind me, and, turning swiftly, beheld a most ludicrous sight. The " dead " vulture had come to life! The man was holdng it by its legs, and its great wings were whirling madly. Its great beak firmly embedded in the man's puttees. The man had the " wind up " badly! " *Udege kula mimi!*" (The bird is eating me), he shouted. We were nearly helpless with laughter, but soon made sure the bird *was* dead, and thereby relieved the scared native. I suppose my shot had merely stunned it.

Photo F. Dawson-Smith.

Weavers' Nests.

Here's another vulture story. On one of our numerous shooting safaris I shot a wildbeeste at about 400 yards range. It was a magnificent bull with a splendid head. Cutting off its head, we—another officer and myself--hauled it as far as we could and then got the car up and put it in. Then we went back to the carcase. When we had left it, there was not a single vulture in sight; when we returned, after less than half an hour's absence, we found about 300 of these birds of prey round the carcase. To our amazement the wildebeeste, an animal as large as an ox, had been entirely consumed by the voracious birds! All that was left for us was the hide and the bones picked clean. And the vicinity was strewn with feathers where the vultures had been fighting. Some of them were so gorged that they were scarcely able to fly! Doesn't it sound beastly?

The tropical birds, with their brilliant colouring, are wonderfully beautiful. I wish I could show you the tiny sun-birds flying in the sunlight. They are the African humming birds, and it is simply glorious to watch them, as I do, in their natural state.

I have the skins of some fine large birds tawny eagle, giant heron, marabout, etc., and I have a huge quantity of beautiful ostrich feathers. I shall be sending home various trophies of my safaris, as opportunities offer. I believe I have one of the finest collections of " Heads " in the whole Battalion!

I am busy in odd intervals—few and far between—in writing an article for Bird Notes, and hope to send it shortly. The difficulties of transit are great. My letters have to go by " runner," who carries them in a cleft stick, through wild, savage country inhabited by hostile tribes and wild beasts. If all goes well, and nothing happens to the carrier, my letter will reach you in about four months after I have despatched it, so you see there is no guarantee that my article will reach Bird Notes at any time. I shall do my best and just trust to luck! That is pretty much what one *has* to do out here on the Abyssinian Frontier, where it is a far cry to a white man, and civilization is unknown. And that's *that*!

So give my best regards to our most esteemed Editor and fellow members of the F.B.C., and just let them know that *some* sort of article will, I hope, find its way " some day, somehow " to dear old Bird Notes, even if it is in tatters and practically undecipherable when it finally reaches England! I think the photos of birds and nests will be interesting, and there are the films to print from if required, and, anyway, it will show I have not forgotten our magazine and its needs, and my own small share in contributing to its columns.

By the way, rather a strange coincidence occurred when I was in hospital at Nairobi. One of the nurses mentioned Brighton, and I said I had been there to see the aviaries of Major Johnson at Melrose House, and she said the house was now being used as a hospital and she had been there. Wasn't it curious? I was often meeting old "bird" friends. It forms a wonderful sort of freemasonry among travellers, and all that I have ever met have been awfully nice. So that is another good trait in "birdy" people. Don't you agree with me?

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Further Notes on the Current Season.

By H. E. Bright.

I find it difficult to follow the doings of all the birds in the limited time at my disposal, and, while I have a good aviary attendant, he lacks the eye and ear to read aright the signs that tell so much to those who understand the language (vocal and physical) of the aviary and its interesting inhabitants; again, I find that though it is very nice to have a very large, naturally planted aviary, it is very hard to find young birds when they leave the nest, and to follow their doings, also to follow all the nesting operations that take place. [This is only half an argument against a large wild aviary, for in such the interest never pales, and eye and ear soon get attuned to note every sound and movement, and *something new is always turning up*.—Ed.].

Baltimore Hangnests (*Icterus galbula*). These have left their nest (noted in last issue); it contained two eggs only, very similar to those of a bunting. They are now (June 16th) very busy building again, and their new home promises to be a real "work of art," much superior to their first attempt. It is built in a quiet part of the aviary, away from the paths, right at the top of a large privet bush, and, so far, the upper portion is composed entirely of white fibre. It looks very fragile, but I found in the old nest, which I have taken out of the bush, that the hair and fibre is very securely woven several times round each twig and then into the rest of the material so securely that its fragility is more apparent than real. The bottom of the pouch, or nest bag, is stout and well lined with hair and wool. I hope their second attempt may be crowned with success!

FOSTER PARENTAGE: I saw a curious incident yesterday (June 15th) of this phase of aviary episodes which interested me greatly. An odd cock Peach-faced Lovebird has taken a great fancy to some young Green Cardinals, and certainly does his best to feed them. He regurgitates the food, and, I think, has actually fed them after several attempts, as I saw one of the young cardinals open its mouth, and the lovebird appeared to put some food therein.

GROUND GROSBEAKS: The large Brown-coloured Grosbeaks (species?) also deserted their first nest, and I took it out of the bush; it contained one egg. It is a big nest made of sticks and hay, and lined with hair. The egg much resembles that of the Song Thrush. They have now constructed another nest and are closely incubating a clutch of three eggs—I will report the result later.

GOLDEN-BELLIED GROSBEAKS: These have not made any attempt at nesting. They are fine, handsome birds, about the same size as the Brown ones. Both pairs appear to feed largely on green-stuff, buds, leaves, etc.

BLUE GROSBEAKS (*Guiraca cyanca*). These are nesting again. I found their first nest deserted, only one egg left therein. this I have taken—I hope their second attempt may be more successful.

VIRGINIAN CARDINALS (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). These, as already noted, nested and laid a clutch of three eggs; these were incubated for the full period, but all three eggs were addled. They are now nesting again. My second pair of this species have not, up to the present, made the least attempt at nesting.

RED-CRESTED CARDINAL (*Paroaria cucullata*). I made a great mistake with my pair of this species: They had built a nest, but did not deposit any eggs therein, and, as they were driving about a pair of Australian Crested Doves, I told my man to catch them and put them in another aviary—too late I discovered that they had built another nest and laid a clutch of eggs! In their new quarters, though carrying hay, etc., about, so far another nest has not been commenced. I may add, however, that the Crested Doves, since the removal of the Cardinals, have built a nest and are closely incubating a couple of eggs.

Blue Robins (*Sialia sialis*). My pair of this species have young, which they have been steadily feeding for a fortnight, and I am watching them with great interest, as I had understood from Dr. Butler's book that the parent birds swallowed the live food before giving it to their young—this is certainly not the case with my pair; they pick up the insects and go direct to their young with their beaks full, the insects projecting on either side of their beaks—evidently transferring them directly into the gaping mouths of their offspring. It may be of interest to note here that the most likely birds are not always the best for breeding! I received two hens—one in excellent condition generally; the other, a young one, had neither flight nor tail-feathers. It went through the winter, and the feathers gradually grew, but it was never equal to the other hen, which spent the winter with, what I hoped, was its future mate. However, this pair did not immediately go to nest. Later on I put the weaker hen into the large aviary with the others, and, to my surprise, a few days later I saw her (the weaker hen) driving the other hen away from the cock and mating with him—she found a nest in a box at once and laid her clutch there, and, as stated above, she has young a fortnight old, which I expect to make their exit from the nest any day—I never expected this hen would breed this year at all!

Young birds are now beginning to show up. Last night I saw young of the following species:

Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). Four—maybe more.
Greenfinch—Sikhim hybrds—Three, i.e., hybrids paired with a Greenfinch.
Masked Doves (*Œna capensis*). Two—one from each of two pairs; both pairs sitting again.
Geoffroy's Doves (*Peristera geoffroyi*). Two.
Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*). Two.
Silverbills (*Aidemosyne cantans*). Two.

The following are all feeding young in the nest:

Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).
* Large Brown Grosbeaks (species?).
Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*).

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* These have one fair-sized youngster and two addled eggs in the nest.

ANOTHER HYBRID: I have a cock Migratory Thrush (*Turdus migratorius*) mated up with a Song Thrush (*T. musicus*), which have nested, laid, and are either incubating eggs about due to hatch or feeding young. Has this cross been reared before?

RED-RUMP PARRAKEETS (*Psephotus haematonotus*). Their first nest was a failure, but they promptly nested again, and their second clutch must be about due to hatch out.

There may be others, but the above are all of which I am cognisant at present.

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Pals.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The more I see, and the more closely I observe living creatures, from lordly man himself down to the lowest phase of animal life, the more I am convinced that the spirit of palship is prevalent with every species—not a palship that is general, but an individual one, and by no means confined to unmated birds, nor does the breeding season entirely separate the pals, though the duties of reproducing their kind and feeding a family materially curtails the time available for the enjoyment of such palship—neither does it in anyway interfere with Nature's stern law of " the survival of the fittest," yet this " piffle " is of a palship that is as real as any that exists between individuals of genus *Homo*. There is, however, some difference—I had better interpolate here that my observation leads me to draw a sharp line between cross-mating, courtship and " palship " and between the human and animal world palship (of course in this philandering I confine myself to aviary-life); it is usually quite outside the domestic life of respective pairs; is usually between members of the same sex (platonic friendship is almost unknown in aviary-life, and may be taken, when it does occur, as the exception which proves the rule), and Mr. Zebra Finch or Mr. Cutthroat do not introduce their pals to their respective mates, so, in the avian world Mr. Cutthroat is not called upon to eulogise, truly or falsely, the beauty and sweetness of Mr.

Zebra Finch's offspring—neither does Mrs. Zebra Finch share in her partner's pals.

The writer has had almost unlimited opportunity of studying the aviary-life of many prominent aviculturists' aviaries, of listening to many pal-yarns, as well as observing all the queer (?) traits of the occupants of his own aviaries.

I will sort of proceed to prove my case by quoting first an instance of the "exception that proves the rule:"

In one of the enclosures which are given up to parrots and parrakeets, which is occupied by odd birds, live a Blue-fronted Amazon parrot (♂), and a Bengal Parrakeet (♀), between whom exists a purely *platonic* friendship. Each bird had passed through the sad experiences of tragedy, in which their respective mates "went West," and perchance, who can tell? their palship began in a sort of "fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind" spirit—in married bliss they were neighbours with only a partition of wire netting between them—in their sorrows as widower and widow they held communion and extended sympathy to each other through the netting. One lazy hour (*very few these*), while lounging in front of the aviaries. I observed them feeding each other through the netting and holding sweet converse together, so, I soliloquised, why waste a season? Why not have some strange hybrids if you can't have the pure species? The outcome was, I went into the aviary, lazy no longer, caught up the widow and placed her with the widower; but, alas! for my calculations, their friendship was purely platonic and remains so. At intervals during the day they may be seen feeding each other, exchanging confidences, or having a playful "spar" together, so playful that not a feather is put out of place; and so the game of life goes on. I wove a romance around them, but they thought otherwise, and happily trend their way onward in full enjoyment of their platonic love.

In aviaries devoted to breeding pairs I have had many pleasing and ill-assorted instances of this palship, for, like many human friendships—of the latter it is often said: "they have not a trait in common, they cannot remain pals long!" probably herein lies the secret of their enduring palship—the most unlikely individuals become and continue pally. Of human pals it is often said—" long and short," or " large and small of the matter "—such cynical criticism would be equally true of avian pals, and very probably occurs in the avian-world, who knows?

Here is a list of cases of palship, which I have observed in my own or friends' aviaries. In each case both birds were of the same sex, and one or both of them legally married, and beyond the reproach of Mrs. Grundy of Bird-land.

Zebra and Cutthroat Finch (lasted 3 years).

Java Sparrow and Indian Green-wing Dove (after 4 years the death of the Java separated the friends).

Violet Tanager and Madagascar Lovebird (lasted 2 years, when the sale of the pair of Lovebirds ruthlessly parted them).

Long-tailed Grassfinch and Diamond Dove (death separated them).

Tri-colour Mannikin and Australian Crested Pigeon.

Black-cheeked Lovebird and Indian Ring-necked Parrakeet.

Canary-wing Parrakeet and Budgerigar.

Budgerigar and Java Sparrow.

Spice Finch and Shama (a striking case, most interesting to watch; they rested side by side, squeezed together during meridian heat, and so slept during the night).

Black Tanager and Grey-wing Ouzel (both these birds were hens); this is an extreme case in which the palship intruded into the domestic life, the Tanager insisting on assisting her pal to feed her babies, which Mrs. Ouzel did not mind, but Mr. Ouzel certainly did, and so " between two stools " the babies died! This the pals, of course, laid at the door of Mr. Ouzel, and their sweet bond of friendship continued, till in the following season their owner's ruthless hand placed them in separate aviaries.

I could add to the above almost without limit, also the details concerning the demeanour of the respective pals—they foraged together for their respective families, spent their short periods of rest together, and told each other with bated breath the spicy stories and scandal of their little world; then, when their babies were settled for the night, went off to their club together—some tree, bush, or secluded corner of the aviary—

to discuss the annoyances of domestic life (they are spared the servant problem!), the hard times and the latest scandal, for even an aviary is not free from this scourge of life. Some, nay most, of these palships are very unselfish, give and take is the rule, therefore they last; they help each other against the aviary bully or bullies, for, alas, these are never absent, not even in the best regulated aviaries—I must not meander on, but will bring these notes to a close with a bit of scandal.

There are folks of irregular morals in Birdland as well as in other countries. I will quote a glaring instance in my own aviaries of recent happening. My Stanley Parrakeets, which reared young last season, are still in the same aviary and have the same companions. At the last moult Mr. Stanley failed to reproduce his flight- and tail-feathers, though apparently a robust bird, since when Mrs. Stanley has ignored him, and has been guilty of desertion and bare-faced adultery; no family has followed this sinful union—probably they lay their sins at the door of the law of "the survival of the fittest!" Who knows?

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Editorial.

Nesting Notes: Many of these are given in article form elsewhere in this issue.

On June 16th, when the Editor had the privilege of looking over the Duchess of Wellington's aviaries—to which we shall allude more fully in a future issue—the following species were noted as having eggs or young:

Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*)—2 almost fully fledged young in the nest—parents feeding well.

Green Singing-finches (*Serinus icterus*)—incubating a clutch of three eggs.

Giant Whydahs (*Choera procne*)—the first brood of the season was not reared, but a fresh nest is almost complete—it is a beautiful structure constructed amid the tall grass, with its base all but resting on the ground. It is constructed of coarse grass and the downy seed heads of reedy grasses, giving it the appearance of having an inner lining of whitish-down, so cunningly is the material woven together. Two fine young males, reared in 1919, are now in full colour.

Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*)—one pair incubating a clutch of three eggs.

The writer is of the opinion that other pairs are nesting; their demeanour indicates this, though the nests have not yet been discovered.

Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham, Lincs. ,reports a mixture of good and bad luck.

Southern Triangular-spotted Pigeons (*Columba maculosa*)—2 reared.

Bearded Tits (*Panurus biarmicus*). These nested, laid and incubated for the full periods, but all four eggs were infertile.

Cirl Buntings (*Emberiza cirlus*). This pair behaved peculiarly; built a nest and laid one egg which, *after a week*, was taken away; a few days later the hen was sitting on three eggs in the *same* nest; all three of these hatched, but one chick failed to leave the shell—mice or something pulled one out of the nest the first day, and the other disappeared the following day.

Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus haematonotus*) –the first nest produced one young cock, which has been fully reared and sold—they are now (June 16th) sitting again.

AVICULTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA: A correspondent informs us of the following successes in his aviaries (the climate of S. Africa is evidently more satisfactory for successful aviculture than our own):

Rosy-faced (*Agapornis roseicollis*), and Black-faced Lovebirds (*A. nigrigenis*). Both species have proved very prolific, so much so as to become a nuisance!

Several species of *Columbidae* ditto.

Red-headed Weaver Finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*)—very prolific.

Dufresne's Waxbill (*Estrilda dufresni*)--Eggs only, twice.

Golden Seedeater (*Serinus marshalli*)—Five eggs, accidentally broken.

South African Siskin (*Spinus totta*)—did not breed.

HYBRIDS:

White-throated Seedeater (*Poliospiza angolensis*) × Canary.—4 hybrids reared (2 light ones). Cock shared incubation duty and helped to feed the young. The male hybrids grand songsters.

Alario Finch (*Alario alario*) × Canary.—3 hybrids reared (1 light). This cock also shared in incubation and feeding of young.

Green Singingfinch (*Serinus icterus*) × Canary.—One hybrid reared, killed by a bantam fowl which got into my birdroom. A similar accident befell a young hybrid White-eye (*Zosterops virens*) × Canary, which I was fortunate enough to get.

My *Nectarinidae* do well on the following syrup: One teaspoonful each of Bush honey and white ant meal, and half a teacupful of warm water—supplied when cold. *Zosteropidae* thrive well on fresh figs.

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Article Competition.

With the main object of increasing the number of contributors to our Journal, BIRD NOTES, Maj. A. E. Snape kindly offers three prizes of Two guineas, One guinea, and Half guinea for the three articles judged to be the best of the year, i.e., from July 1921 to June 1922 inclusive. The Awards Committee will make the awards and consider the articles from the standpoint of practical utility to aviculture rather than mere literary merit. There will be no formality of entering for the competition, as all articles appearing in B.N. will be adjudged indiscriminately, save those from the Editor's pen. The subject matter of the articles must be AVICULTURE. No member will be awarded more than one prize.

It will depend on the response during the period named (July 1921 to June 1922) whether the competition is continued or not.

Correspondence.

NESTING NOTES 1921.

SIR,—You may be interested to hear that my Sulu Island King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus sulucnsis*) has laid two eggs; I believe this very rare bird has never been imported before, let alone bred. She is paired to a very fine male *Pyrrhulopsis splendens* (Red-shining) and if young are reared the hybrid should be beautiful, as well as unique. My only fear is that the disparity in size between the two birds may render their mating ineffective, the Red-shining being very much larger than the Sulu Island.

I am glad to say the Greatbill's toes have recovered; we tied back the two weak ones, and strange to say he did not bite off the bandage!

I have 12 young Stanley Parrakeets in the nest, and three Barnard's, besides two green young from a Lutino Indian Ringneck; Rock Peplars are incubating fertile eggs, and Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets are sitting.

Havant, June 11th, 1921. (Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

CUCKOOS' EGGS.

SIR,—On May 22nd of this year I found a Cuckoo's egg (of the Sky lark type) in a deserted Hedge Accentor's nest, from which probably a school-boy had abstracted the builder's eggs. I took it and placed a canary pot-egg in its place, but the cuckoo refused to lay more eggs. I understand it is quite rare to find Cuckoos' eggs in deserted nests. Have any of our members had a similar experience? I should also like to know if *blue* eggs of the Cuckoo are very rare. Personally I have never come across one.

Maldon, June 27th, 1921. (Rev.) G. H. RAYNOR, M.A.

Post Mortem Reports.

CARDINAL: Mrs. Read, Thames Ditton.—Cause of death enteritis. There was no sign of injury.

PUDGERIGAR: Kenneth S. Mackay.—Decomposed.

BUDGERIGAR: The Marquis of Tavistock, Havant.—The bird had received a blow on the head, which had cracked the skull across the middle line, causing a little hemorrhage. The brain was soft, but this may be post mortem. The lungs were slightly congested.

N S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist.

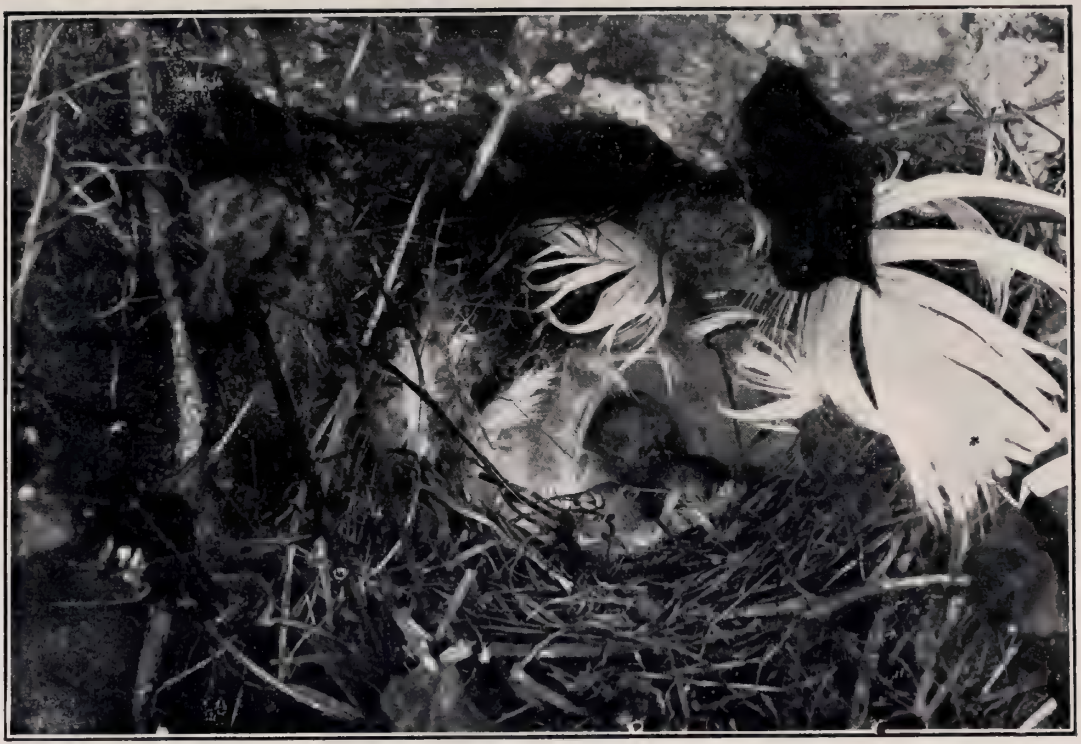

Photo by Nest and Eggs of Lesser Diuca Finch. *W. Shore Baily.*

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Breeding of the Lesser Diuca Finch

(Diuca minor)

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Away back last autumn Mr. Rogers, of Liverpool, wrote me that he had some new Finches just arrived from the Argentine, so I asked him to send them on, as I am always interested in any new variety of seed-eater. On their arrival I found them to be Lesser Diuca Finches. As it happened, I already had an odd male of the larger species *Diuca diuca*, so I was able to compare the two species. The only difference that I could see was in the length of the flight and tail-feathers, which in the larger bird (*D. diuca*) appeared to be about ¾ inch longer. The colour in both sexes is alike in both species, but the hen is a little more dingy.

Early in May my pair of *D. minor* went to nest, building a rather untidy nest of grass and roots, to which they gave a thick lining of feathers. Three rather large eggs were laid, similar in type to some of our house sparrow's eggs, but the shell was rather more glossy. On examining the eggs, after a week's incubation, I found that two of them had been punctured, so I removed the whole clutch. A few days afterwards they laid again in the same nest, and, after an incubation period of thirteen days, two young were hatched from the three eggs. These were ugly little things, but grew rapidly, as both parents fed them, and, as plenty of mealworms were available, everything was in their favour. On examining their nest about a fortnight later, I was surprised to find that they had flown, and that the hen had laid another clutch of three eggs, which I thought to be very sharp work. I had not yet seen the young birds since they were fledged, and, as I had to be away from home for a few days at this time, they must have been nearly a month old when I first saw one of them flying after its parent and asking to be fed. In everything but size it was an exact replica of the hen, and at the time of writing the only one that survived is hardly to be distinguished from either parent. Strange to say, the clutch of eggs had disappeared in my absence, so, suspecting mice, I removed the nest. The hen promptly started building on another site, and is now feeding young once more.

I don't know whether *Diuca minor* has been previously bred, but I believe that Miss R. Alderson bred *Diuca diuca* a good many years ago. Possibly I may be entitled to a medal.

I have to record failures with Golden-breasted Buntings, and Misto Seed-finches. If success is met with later in the season, an account of the nesting of these shall be sent.

Writing in *Argentine Ornithology* of the wild life of *D. minor*, Mr. Hudson says:—

> "This pretty little grey and white finch is common on the Chilian side of the Andes and throughout Patagonia. It is a tuneful bird, lively, social and frolicsome in its disposition; in autumn and winter uniting in flocks of from fifty to three or four hundred individuals, swift of flight, and when on the wing fond of pursuing its fellows and engaging in mock battles. The song of the male is very pleasing, the voice having more depth and mellowness than is usual with the smaller fringilline singers, which, as a rule, have their reedy and tremulous notes. In summer it begins singing very early, even before the faintest indication of coming daylight is visible, and at that dark silent hour the notes may be heard at a great distance, and sound wonderfully sweet and impressive. During the cold season, when they live in companies, the singing time is in the evening, when the birds are gathered in some thick-foliaged tree or bush, which they have chosen for a winter roosting place. This winter evening song is a hurried twittering, and utterly unlike the serene note of the male bird heard on summer mornings. A little while after sunset the flock bursts into a concert, which lasts several minutes, sinking and growing louder by turns, and during which it is scarcely possible to distinguish the notes of individuals. Then follows an interval of silence, after which singing is again renewed very suddenly, and as suddenly ended. For an hour after sunset, and when all other late singers like the *Mimus* have long been silent, this fitful, impetuous singing is continued. Close by a house on the Rio Negro, in which I spent several months, there were three

Photo by Young Lesser Diuca Finch. *W. Shore Baily.*

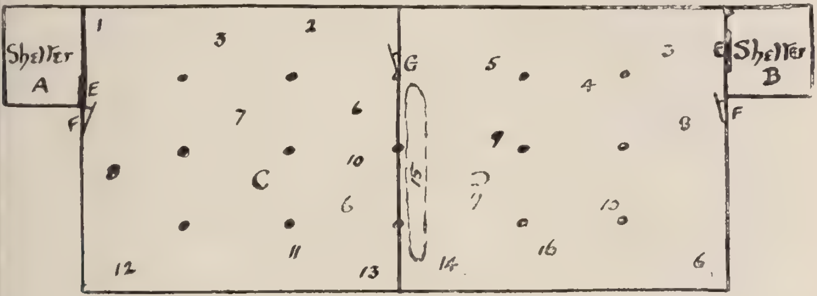
large chanar bushes, where a multitude of Diuca Finches used to roost, and they never missed singing in the evening, however cold or rainy the evening used to be. So fond were they of this charming habit that when I approached the bushes, or stood directly under them, the alarm caused by my presence would interrupt the performance only for a few moments, and presently they would burst into song again, the birds all the time swiftly pursuing each other amongst the foliage, often within a foot of my head."

◆

Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Capt. G. E. Rattigan's New Aviaries.—I saw these in the making in November last, and in one respect they have not fulfilled their promise—the long drought has killed nearly all the shrubs and bushes, the sole exceptions being a *Buddleia globosa* and a *Cupressus erecta.* This, however, is only a spectacular defect, as the occupants of the aviary are apparently quite satisfied with the dead bushes, and have used them freely for nesting sites and night cover. To a large extent a rampant growth of wild grasses (some 18 inches high) and other herbage has prevented any appearance of bareness, and gives quite a natural effect to the two large lawn aviaries.



GROUND PLAN Capt Rattigan's Aviaries.
Scale $\frac{1}{16}$ inch to foot.

KEY TO GROUND PLAN.

A. B. Shelters, each 8ft. x 7ft.
C D. Flights, each 27ft. x 24ft.
E. Open doorways between flights and shelters.
F. Entrance doors to flights.
G. Communication door between flights.

1. Prunus Bush.
2. *Cupressus erecta.*
3. Ivy growing over tree stumps.
4. Privet.
5. Tamarisk.
6. Groups of hardy Maiden-hair Fern.
7. Groups of Flag Iris.
8. Yew Trees.
9. Hardy Fuschia.
10. Fir Tree.
11. Pampas Grass.
12. Genista.
13. *Buddleia globosa.*
14. Aucuba.
15. Dwarf Box Hedge.
16. Thorn Tree.

● Standards supporting roof.

I regret there are no photos to illustrate these two well arranged aviaries, and, as may be expected, a goodly measure of breeding success has attended their inaugural year, some particulars of which appeared in last issue (*vide* pages 133-4), and during a recent visit I spent many happy hours in front of the aviaries watching the joyful occupancy of the inmates—courting, building, incubating, and feeding young in the nest.

No. 1 Aviary contains:

* *Have reared young.* †*Feeding young.* §*Incubating or building.*

† 1 pair Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*).
1 pair Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
* 1 pair Yellow-billed Cardinals (*Paroaria capitata*).
§ 1 pair Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*).
1 ♂ Virginian Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
1 ♀ Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*).
1 ♀ Great Tit (*P. major*).
1 ♂ Pin-tail Whydah (*Vidua principalis*).

I was an interested spectator while Capt. Rattigan dispensed the mealworms many times—it really required some diplomacy to manage so that the Red-crested Cardinals secured sufficient for their three babies, which were progressing well when I left, for Green, Yellow-bills and Virginian Cardinals were always on the *qui vive* at mealworm time and more than willing to " snaffle " the lot.

The Yellow-billed Cardinals are very uncommon, beautiful and interesting birds, and Capt. Rattigan's success with these, is, I think, the first in English aviaries. I saw the young bird that is fully reared; it has been taken away from its parents, who are building another nest, and occupies a cage in the birdroom, but, as Capt. Rattigan is writing an account of his success, I refrain from further comment.

The Green Cardinals were showing indications of nesting.

No. 2 Aviary contains:

† 2 pairs Lavender Finches (*Lagonasticta caerulescens*).
* 2 pairs Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
1 pair Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*).
† 1 pair Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*).
§ 2 pairs Quail Finches (*Sporopipes squamifrons*).
1 pair Gold-breasted Waxbills (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*).
1 pair Orange-cheek Waxbills (*S. melpodus*).
1 pair Dufresne's Waxbills (*Estrilda dufresnii*).
* 2 pairs Rufous-backed Mannikins (*Spermestes nigriceps*)
§ 1 pair Black-headed Mannikins (*Munia atricapilla*).
1 pair Pekin Robins (*Liothrix luteola*).
1 pair Lined Finches (*Spermophila lineata*).
† 1 pair Green Singingfinches (*Serinus icterus*)
1 pair Grey Singingfinches (*S. leucopygius*).
* 1 pair White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*).
1 pair Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*).
1 pair Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*).
1 pair Orange Bishops (*Pyromelana franciscana*).
§ 1 pair Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*).
3 Queen Whydahs (*Vidua regia*).
1 ♂ Grenadier Weaver (*Pyromelana oryx*).
1 ♂ and 2 ♀ Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*).

Though the above are all well-known species, they made a fascinating picture in their roomy aviary, as often seen swaying and feeding on a slender head of grass as in the trees and bushes. The Lavender Finches especially were an entrancing sight, being in fine plumage and evidently on nesting intent, and nearly always in the picture; nor were the Dufresne's and other waxbills one whit behind. The Lined Finches, too, are fascinating birds, the cock with his fine song and pied plumage being a striking object, holding ear and eye alike. One lingered in front of this aviary and turned therefrom reluctantly.

My only adverse criticism of the above aviaries is the smallness of the shelter sheds, though these are snug and well lighted, but 8ft. x 7ft. is on the small side; I certainly should have made 12ft. x 8ft. the minimum size. However, as Capt.

Rattigan intends to winter all his birds in the birdroom this will not materially affect their usefulness or success.

No. 3 Aviary: This is a wooden aviary with covered top, some 15ft. long x 5ft. wide, wire netting at front only, with one end boxed in as a shelter. It stands at the top of the lawn, at right angles with aviaries 1 and 2. It contains 2 pairs each of Green and Yellow Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), whose nesting operations have, for some reason or another, hung fire, but one pair of Greens have three fully fledged young in the nest, whose heads were frequently thrust out of the husk, but seemed to hesitate about making their exit. All these birds were of large size, fine colour, and not a feather out of place.

The Birdroom: This is a good-sized loft. some 60ft. long by 25ft. wide, very lofty and well-lighted, and will make admirable winter quarters for the birds.

At present it is only partially fitted up—there are certain roomy cages round the sides, containing canaries and young birds from the aviaries able to fend for themselves.

There are two central flights, each 10ft. x 6ft x 7ft. high, which are well furnished with twiggy branches, nest receptacles and food hoppers.

No. 1 contains:

* *Reared young.* † *Feeding young.* § *Nesting or incubating.*

2 pairs Zebra Finches.
1 pair White Java Sparrows.
† 1 pair Bullfinches.
2 ♂ Avadavats.
1 ♂ Greenfinch.
1 ♀ Silverbill.
1 pair Cordon Bleus.
1 ♂ Red-headed Finch paired up with a ♀ Cutthroat, which were feeding young hybrids in the nest.

No. 2 contains:

† 1 pair Green Cardinals.
1 ♂ Blue Budgerigar.
2 pairs Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

Capt. Rattigan was unfortunate to lose his hen Blue Budgerigar, but the cock has mated up with one of the blue-bred hens and they are incubating a clutch of eggs.

There is a range of three dog-kennels, substantial concrete constructions, which, in the near future, when flights have been added, will become useful parrakeet aviaries.

When all is complete Capt. Rattigan will have very practical and fairly extensive avicultural accommodation, and I wish him the best of luck with same—with the Devonshire climate to assist he certainly should get good success.

MRS. BURGESS' BIRDROOM AND BIRDS (*Continued from page 114*). VASA PARROT (*Coracopsis vasa*). A rare, uncommon, sombrely coloured, but handsome species; at the present time the possession of this species is most certainly an acquisition, but, if I remember rightly Mrs. Burgess has a true pair.

It is a native of Madagascar and has been introduced in Reunion Island.

The adult male is dark blackish-brown, with the wings, rump, upper tail-coverts and tail glaucous-grey; wing-coverts dark blackish-brown; naked skin round eyes yellowish; beak a mixture of light and dark horn-colour, legs and feet dusky; irides dusky-brown. Total length 20 inches, of which the tail measures 8 inches.

The female has her plumage less lustrous and of a slightly lighter hue than that of the male.

Mrs. Burgess' bird, or pair, was in immaculate condition, and appeared to be very steady and tame.

PENNANT'S PARRAKEET (*Platycercus elegans*). Mrs. Burgess' pair were lovely, a grand rich colour, in fact perfect in every respect, and it seemed a great pity and an awful waste that they had not an enclosure to themselves and a chance to reproduce their kind.

These handsome Australian broadtails are too well known to call for a description of their plumage—there are few, if any, of the Australian *psittaci* that surpass them in their gorgeous and beautifully harmonised plumage.

When breeding they are not, as a rule, safe company for other parrakeets, so should have an enclosure to themselves.

ALEXANDRINE PARRAKEETS (*Palaeornis alexandrina*). A grand pair of birds, but too well known to call for further comment.

This species is usually quite ready to breed if given a roomy aviary, and mostly do not interfere with other parrakeets unless these be closely allied species.

King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*). A very fine pair of these birds shared the enclosure of the preceding species and were a gorgeous spectacle indeed. As the plumage of the sexes is quite distinct it will be helpful to give both.

Adult male: Entire under surface and whole of the neck and head bright scarlet; back and wings vivid green, with a blue line dividing the scarlet of the neck and green of the back; rump deep blue; tail black, the outer feathers tinged with blue, the remainder tinged with olive; bill scarlet, feet reddish brown; irides yellow.

Female: Head, nape, back and under surface green, throat and chest tinged with red, abdomen scarlet; rump blue; upper tail-coverts and tail green; bill dusky horn-colour.

It is a native of Eastern Australia, where it is found, according to Gould, "among the brushes, particularly such as are low and humid, and where the large *Casuarinae* grow in the greatest profusion . . . . when the Indian corn is ripening this species levies a heavy toll thereupon." According to North it builds in such lofty trees that its nests are most difficult of access.

It is a very hardy species and really thrives best when kept out of doors all the year round.

Mueller's Parrot (*Tanygnathus muelleri*): This is an uncommon, but heavily built species, yet, withal, most certainly is not of either clumsy or awkward appearance.

The general colouration is an arrangement of green, but has the lower-back and rump blue, wings also variegated with blue, and the under surface is washed with yellow; irides white; bill red; feet dusky-green.

It is a native of the Celebes.

Not so attractive, though a handsome bird, as some of the species already passed in review.

Roseate Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*): A pair of this handsome but common species was included in the collection; though it seemed almost a pity to confine this handsome and most hardy species within doors.

It has been bred in a state of liberty by more than one aviculturist—the Marquis of Tavistock has so bred it on more than one occasion —but, as I write, I cannot call to mind any instance of it having been bred in captivity.

Too well known for further comment.

The above six species were confined together in the same enclosure.

Senegal Parrot (*Poeocephalus senegalus*). A pair of this fine and interesting species, with other *psittaci*, occupied one of the enclosures. One is surprised that this species has not bred in captivity before this, for I knew of one true pair which occupied an outdoor aviary in the Isle of Wight for five years, yet, strange to say, they never made any attempt to go to nest, and the same experience has been the lot of other aviculturists who have had true pairs.

The colouration is mainly brilliant green, with the crown of the head brownish-grey-black, and the underparts mostly brilliant yellow. There is practically no difference in the plumage of the sexes.

It is a native of Africa.

Jendaya Parrakeets (*Conurus jendaya*): No less than five specimens of this species were in the same enclosure, I think, as the Senegals, and were of different ages, so that the respective plumages were very varied and made a fine spectacle; it will be even more so when all have reached the adult stage, for a full coloured Jendaya is a gorgeous bird indeed. They have been successfully bred both as a species and crossed with other species of parrakeets.

As it is a well known species, having been known to aviculture for very many years, a description of its plumage is uncalled for—it is mainly flame-colour when fully adult, and almost rivals *solstitialis* for brilliancy.

It can be kpt out of doors all the year round.

Bahama Amazon (*Chrysotis bahamensis*). A single specimen of this beautiful Amazon occupied one of the cages. There are three species of this type of Amazon which closely resemble each other, so it will probably be a convenieice if I give a description of the three species showing the main differentiation between them; and as I have not all three available as I write, I quote same from the B.M.C., vol. XX., pp. 315-8.

leucocephala: "Green, the feathers edged with black; cheeks and throat rosy-red; ear-coverts black; abdomen dull red, with the edges of the feathers green; under tail-coverts yellowish green; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and outer edges of the quills blue; smaller under wing-coverts green, the greater ones and with the inner webs of the quills below verditer-blue; tail above green, with the inner webs of the lateral feathers yellowish green towards the tips and red at the bases; outer web of the outer tail-feathers blue; bill and cere whitish; feet flesh-colour; iris brownish-yellow. Total length 13in."

cayennensis: "Resembles *leucocephala*, but differs from that species greatly in the markings of throat and head; forehead dull yellowish-white, not reaching the eye; feathers of the head bluish-green, tipped and edged with dull black; cheeks bright crimson red, the feathers broadly edged with yellow; under parts bluish-green, marked with dull red on the sides and belly; the feathers of the breast and belly edged with dull black; quills heavily edged with blue on the outer webs, inner webs dark brown; tail yellowish-green, the outer web of outer feathers pale blue, the basal portion of inner webs heavily marked with dark red. Total length 11in."

bahamensis: "The Bahama bird differs from *leucocephala* by showing very little red on the belly, sometimes nearly absent; more red on the crissum and under wing-coverts (!); tail bluish-green, the red markings shown only on the two outer feathers (Cory)."

Mr. L. Bonhote brought home, some years ago, quite a few of the Bahama birds, including more than one true pair. He kept some of these several years, but, though nesting attempts were made, no young were reared. The birds were kept out of doors all the year round.

CRIMSON-WING PARRAKEETS (*Ptistes erythropterus*): This beautiful species rivals the King Parrakeet in regal colouration, and like the latter the plumage of the sexes is distinct.

Adult male: The main colouration is green, washed with yellowish on the under-surface; crown and nape verditer-green; scapulars and upper back black; lower back and rump deep rich blue; wing-coverts fiery crimson, yellow at the base of the feathers; primaries and inner secondaries deep green, the outer secondaries blackish with green margins; edge of wing green, with a few black feathers below the bend of the wing; tail above dark green, with yellow tips and reddish margins; the tail below is dark brown, with yellow tips to the feathers; irides flame-colour; bill orange-scarlet; feet olive-brown.

Adult female: Main colouration dull green, with the under-surface yellowish green; some red on the wing-coverts, forming a wing bar; rump blue; lateral tail-feathers with pink margins; irides olive-brown; bill pale horn-colour.

It is native to North and Eastern Australia the northern birds being smaller than the eastern ones.

Habits: Quoting Gould:—

> "The extensive belts of *Acacia pendula* which diversify the plains of eastern Australia are tenanted by this bird, either in small companies of six or eight, or in flocks of a much greater number. It is beyond my power to describe the beauty of the Red-wing when seen among the silvery branches of the Acacia, particularly when the flocks comprise a large number of adult males, the gorgeous scarlet of whose shoulders offers so striking a contrast to surrounding objects . . . . Being naturally shy and wary, it is more difficult of approach than the generality of parrakeets, and it seldom becomes tame or familiar in captivity."
>
> "Its food consists of berries, the fruit of a species of *Loranthus*, and the pollen of flowers, to which is added a species of scaly bug-like insect that infests the branches of its favourite trees; and in all probability small caterpillars, for I have found them in the crops of several of the *Platycerci*. It breeds in the holes of the large *Eucalypti* growing on the banks of rivers; the eggs, which are white, are four or five in number, about an inch and an eighth long by seven-eighths broad."

Mrs. Burgess' birds were a very fine pair, apparently quite satisfied and content with their quarters, but one longed to see them in a roomy outdoor aviary, with the opportunity to reproduce their kind.

They are hardy and robust birds when once acclimatised, and can be left out of doors all the year round. (*To be continued*).

NESTING NOTES FROM EWHURST PARK: On Friday, June 17th, I once more had the privilege of looking through the fine series of aviaries at Ewhurst Park, but as I have only recently described them and given a list of the birds they contain in BIRD NOTES, to go over the ground again would be unprofitable repetition. The coal strike was still on and train service bad, so I arrived later than usual; after lunch and an interesting avicultural talk, the Duchess of Wellington and I started on our tour of the aviaries, and, though these do not include many rarities—beauty and colour, especially *blue*, counts for more than rarity with H.G. of Wellington—they do contain many beautiful birds, even if such be well known species; such birds as: Indigo and Nonpareil Buntings one is never tired of seeing, especially in the setting of a naturally planted wilderness aviary. The spectacle of *Cyanospiza cyanea* and *C. ciris* flitting to and fro amid the living creepers and bushes, or taking a flight the whole length of their long enclosures, or halting momentarily, perched on some twig or stem, when one had a brief glimpse of the azure garment of *cyanea,* or the gorgeous rainbow hues of *ciris*, were spectacles I must leave to the imagination of my readers—words cannot describe them.

In the Orangery, where many of the birds spend the winter months, I saw two young cock Whydahs (*Chocra procne*), which were reared in 1919 (none were reared in 1920); they did not come into colour last year, but now they are in full nuptial plumage, but with tails a little shorter than those of their parents. The only other birds at present here were a young cock Striated Tanager, and a Curl-crested White-cheeked Bulbul. The whydahs were certainly a very fine couple of birds, in full health and vigour, and apparently not a whit behind their wild born brethren in any respect.

In one of the long narrow enclosures were two pairs of Gouldian Finches, and very beautiful they looked too, being of a more lethargic disposition than the buntings; one could see more of them and admire their somewhat (to my mind) bizarre beauty at leisure. The cocks were faultless, but the hens were not in breeding condition, being in the midst of a summer moult; however, the males were doing their best to induce them to go to nest, so I hope to hear of young birds reared a little later.

We spent most of our time in the large aviary, which is a charming bird-paradise indeed—now in its full summer dress, and full of interest too, owing to the busy summer life of its feathered inhabitants. It was by no means easy to trace the various birds, or recognise the species as they flew to and fro, and were temporarily lost amid the foliage of this huge natural enclosure.

Soon we came across a sort of mystery nest, a beautiful cup-shaped structure in a dead branch fixed against the boarding in a secluded and darkish corner of the aviary. The nest was small, and constructed of grass and lined with hair and feathers—therein sat, upon a clutch of four eggs, a wee sombre-coloured bird; only the crouching head and tips of tail feathers were visible, and amid the gloom of this corner I could not see enough of it to name the species, neither could I fit it to any of the birds which the Duchess of Wellington enumerated to me as *some* of the occupants of the aviary. A recent letter informs me that this bird had been found dead beneath the nest and that it was a hen Olive Finch. I did not know that this species was in the aviary, but it raises a very interesting point, as to the effect environment may have in altering the character of some species' nests. Olive finches have nested on several occasions in my aviary, and I have seen others in friends' aviaries, but all the nests I have come across have been globular in form with a hole at the front for entrance. The nest described above was a charmingly neat cup-shaped one, well made and closely woven.

In a bush we looked into a nest of Indigo Buntings, which contained a couple of partly fledged young birds; and had the pleasure of seeing the parent birds feed them several times - a recent letter informs me that both young birds are on the wing and independent of their parents, who are nesting again.

Amid the rank grass of the aviary was an all but complete nest of Long-tailed Whydahs—its base rested on the ground, spherical, or rather oval, in form, the entrance was close to the ground, well hidden by rankly growing grass; it was strongly woven, the exterior being constructed of coarse grass stems, and the weaving was not close—it was lined with the downy (cotton-like) heads of reedy grasses, making the all but finished nest very compact and close, so much so that one could not see into the interior at all. I have heard since that the nesting has been successful, and that young Long-tailed (Giant) Whydahs are on the wing. This makes the third season in four years in which this species (not the same pair) have reared young in these aviaries.

The other nests we noted were Green Singing Finches (*Serinus icterus*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) and Canaries. The latters' nest was a replica of the nest of the Wild Canary (*Serinus canarius*), of which I have seen photos.

Every moment spent in the aviaries was of absorbing interest. Gaily clad weavers (in full dress) flashed in and out of the foliage; waxbills, butterfly-like, flitted to and fro in and out of the picture, also a fair number of other ploceine finches, but limits of space forbid enlargement thereupon.

Nesting Notes on the Yellow-billed Cardinal

(Paroaria capitata)

By Capt. G. E. Rattigan, F.Z.S.

As mentioned in the June issue of B.N. these birds came to me through a lucky chance. They spent the first two months in one of the enclosures of what I have termed the "Barn Aviaries." These consist of large flights 10ft. x 5ft. x 7ft., planned and constructed like all save one of my other aviaries, by our most versatile and industrious hon. editor. During their stay in this enclosure they took little, if any, notice of each other, and always went to roost in different extreme corners, so that, although I could detect some small difference between them, I began, nevertheless, to fear that they might prove to be of the same sex. However, on the 24th March I turned out what, as it transpired later, I rightly took to be the hen, into one of my outside enclosures. For two days I allowed her to have the run of the aviary all to herself, and then turned in the second bird. I had no sooner done this than to my intense relief and satisfaction all doubts as to their being a true pair were very quickly banished. The newcomer paired almost at once, and within a few hours both birds were very obviously engaged in seeking out a desirable site for their future nursery. They were allowed a three days' honeymoon all to themselves, and I then turned in a pair of Pope Cardinals. Unhappily the cock Pope began at once to make himself a thorough nuisance. He deserted his own poor wife in the most flagrant manner, and proceeded to pester the hen Yellow-bill with his most unwelcome attentions. He followed her everywhere, and did his utmost to murder her mate. Hoping to take some of the bounce and assurance out of this bird, on the following day I introduced a pair of Red-crested Cardinals. This move proved very successful for a time until, in fact, the Red-crests were burdened with the cares of a family and could spare no time or interest for any outside matter. Meanwhile, however, this experiment proved a great success. The cock Red-crest quite assumed the role of protector towards the little Yellow-bills, and any attempt at interference or annoyance on the part of Mr. Pope was dealt with in an altogether satisfactory manner. Unfortunately it was just at the time when the Yellow-bills had commenced to incubate that the young Red-crests hatched out, The cock Pope seemed to realize the position at once, and once more made himself such an absolute nuisance that I had to take the "bull by the horns" and catch out the Popes.

The Yellow-bills commenced their nest on the 12th April, and had, so far as I could see, completed it by the 21st April. It was composed of the thin wiry twigs of the maidenhair bush, of which there are two large bushes planted in the aviary, and was built in a large specimen yew. When things had arrived at this stage, however, some hitch seemed to arise—either the hen was not ready to lay, or some material needed to finish the nest was lacking. I tried everything I could think of, but all in vain, until, at last, I chanced on a species of thin wiry grass, which appeared to supply their want, for this they promptly seized upon to line the interior of the nest. Subsequently, a little pampas grass, which also grows in the aviary, was added. No further developments took place till the 7th May, on which date they began to show a certain "liveliness," and fiercely attacked any bird which found its way into their yew. On the 13th I noticed the cock pair for the first time since the occasion already referred to on their first introduction into the aviary. On the 14th the first egg was laid. Two more followed on successive days. Incubation commenced with the laying of the first egg, and, so far as I could discover, the hen alone carries on the duties of incubation. The cock meanwhile perches on some elevated position near by, from which point of vantage he keeps careful guard over the nest, what time he regales his mate with a song, which, for the most part, is quite inaudible to human ears at all events, and, at the same time, goes through a rather curious and interesting display.

One egg hatched on the 27th, thirteen days after incubation commenced, and the remaining eggs on successive days. For the first four days I worked hard supplying the parents with caterpillars, green and black fly (blight), mixed grill (consisting of spiders, black-beetles, *genuine*, not cockroaches, and various other odds and ends), with a few mealworms. The old birds also continued to secure a surprising variety of winged food themselves. Egg and biscuit was the staple supplied, but I do not think this was fed to the young until the 2nd or 3rd of June, by which time the young were five or six days old. From this time until they left the nest practically only this food, i.e.

egg and biscuit, plus a few mealworms was supplied. Two of the youngsters left the nest on June 10th, and were promptly severely mobbed by the Green and Red-crested Cardinals until, at last, in order to have any hope of saving their lives, I caught up all three and placed them in a Yorkshire Canary show cage. All three seemed at this time to be most strong and vigorous young birds, and so my hopes of successfully rearing them were high. The parents continued to feed most diligently, and "everything in the garden seemed lovely." But . . . . about this time other matters almost wholly claimed my attention, and I could not watch over the progress of the young birds so carefully as hitherto. What was my horror then to discover, on looking at the birds carefully on June 12th (two days later) that they were all suffering from violent diarrhoea. This may in part have been brought on by some live ants' eggs I had supplied to the youngsters during the last two days, though the lot I received *seemed* quite clean and fresh. In my experience however, it is a common thing for young birds of this genus to contract diarrhoea shortly after leaving the nest. Food which has appeared to suit them perfectly whilst in the nest does not, for some, to me, obscure reason, seem to suit them later on. I quickly dosed them all with a few drops each of castor oil, but the following morning one, the youngest, was dead. To the survivors I gave a few drops of chlorodyne and supplied green fly and caterpillars both to the parents and to the young themselves, but the latter had not commenced to feed themselves, and these dainties did not tempt them. In the egg food I also mixed a good quantity of powdered cuttle-fish bone, but in spite of all another was dead by evening, and the survivor looked pretty certain to follow along the same road. I caught it up, cleaned its vent, which was in a horrible state, with warm water. I then dangled green caterpillars and spittle bugs in front of it for over an hour, a job requiring a deal of patience, but had almost given it up as a bad job, when I at length succeeded in inducing the little fellow to have a go at them. After this both the parents and I fed it every few hours with caterpillars, green fly, and spittle bugs; it gradually improved in health until at the time of the arrival of our editor, on the 22nd June, on a short visit, it had almost entirely recovered, but was still weak, and had not entirely thrown off the diarrhoea. On the 23rd I finally separated it from the parents, and the improvement continued slowly until at the time of writing, 11th July, I think I can say with confidence that it has entirely recovered and is out of all danger, bar accidents. The old birds commenced to reline the old nest on the 24th June, and the first egg was laid on the 1st July. They are now steadily incubating another clutch of three eggs, which, if all goes well, are due to hatch on the 13th inst. Below I append a few notes on these birds in tabloid form. The general description of adult plumage is taken from Butler's *Foreign Finches in Capivity*, page 68.

> *Description of Plumage*: "This bird has the head, including the chin, vivid carmine, the throat black, extending to a point on either side of the cheeks, where (in life) it disappears behind the red feathering and tapering almost to a point on the breast; general colour above slaty-black; feathers of the nape white at their bases; rump slightly mottled with grey and with the lateral plumes white-tipped; wing-coverts, quills and tail feathers black, the inner web of outer tail feathers narrowly fringed at end with white; sides of neck pure white, tapering almost to nape and continuous with the white of the under-surface, which, as in other species, is slightly tinged with grey as are the sides and flanks, the latter mottled with dusky bars; thighs white in front, black behind, beak bright ochreous-yellow; legs flesh pink; iris fiery chestnut." And he adds: "Female like male."

So it is, yet I can nevertheless readily distinguish between my two birds. In my birds the hen is slightly smaller and slimmer; the white of the underparts is moreover of a much purer white in the cock. Whether or no, however, these are *fixed* sexual distinctions I cannot say.

Immature plumage. When first hatched sparsely covered with black down.

On leaving the nest. Roughly as follows: Above greyish, feathers of back tipped light brown, head rich greyish brown, sides of head rufous, throat same colour, but of a paler tint, really a sort of fawn colour, which extends slightly on to the breast; sides of neck pure white, tapering to the nape, where it merges into the greyish-brown of the back; wing-coverts and tail-feathers black; feet light brown; bill: upper mandible blackish-brown, lower mandible light horn-colour; the thighs show no trace, so far as I can see, of the black of the adult, and no trace either of any black on the throat, this colour being replaced by the light fawn colour described above.

Clutch 3. Eggs olive green, densely streaked and blotched with dark brown, and are very similar both in size, shape and colour, to those of the Red-crested Cardinal, being really large for the size of the bird.

Nest. Very compact and strongly put together, is composed of the thin wiry twigs of the maidenhair bush, and lined with a little fine wiry grass and pampas grass. (The Red-crests used exactly the same materials except that in their case the lining was composed of a little brown cow hair, and it was not so strongly woven together).

Incubation period thirteen days; young left nest in thirteen days, and commenced to fend for itself on the eleventh day after leaving the nest, being entirely on its own two days later. Commenced to eat cracked hemp and sunflower fifteen days after leaving the nest, and was actually singing on July 3rd. The song is quite pleasing, but extremely weak and low.

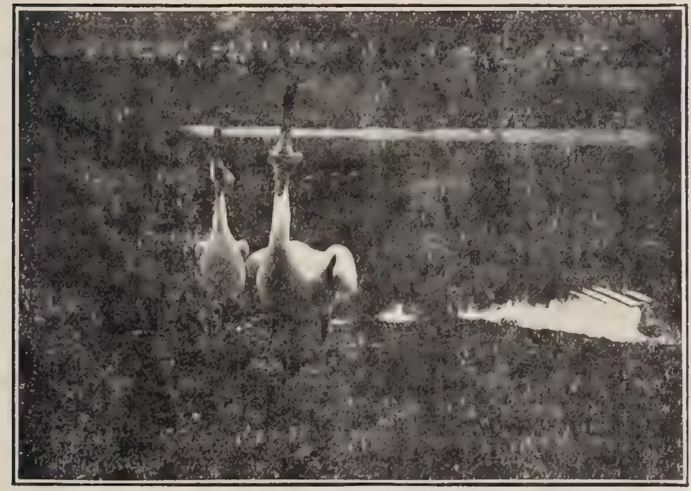
Disposition. Butler calls this " a gentle little bird," but in my experience it is, for its size, extremely pugnacious, and, like its larger relatives, nothing really affords it greater joy than to give chase to smaller and weaker birds. I certainly should not trust it with waxbills, etc., myself, but it is a charming little bird, quite the nicest and most confiding of the cardinals, I think, and it will agree very well with any of this group of birds, bar the Popes. Butler also remarks in *Foreign Finches in Captivity* " that this bird cannot raise the red feathering on the head at will." This statement is, however, incorrect, for the cock *can* and *frequently* does raise these feathers, at the same time spreading out its tail fanwise; this forms part of the usual sexual display, and, moreover, the young bird, a young cock, very frequently indulges in the same kind of performance.

Editorial.

PELICANS: We reproduce in this issue several photos of this somewhat ungainly species, which were taken by the late Lieut. Frank Dawson-Smith at the Zoological Gardens, Alexandria.

Unfortunately no notes have come to hand with them, and, we fear, none are likely to reach us now. Some of the photos were evidently taken at feeding-time, for in two of them (I hope in the reproductions also), the fish can be seen on its way to their ponderous bills.

In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.



In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.

In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.

In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.

In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.

In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.

The photos are of interest as showing some attitudinizing of this grotesque (I suppose this is the wrong term to apply to any species thoroughly equipped for its place and purpose in nature, anyhow that is how it strikes most mortals) species.

We also greatly admire the lake and splendid environment they have at the Alexandria Zoo; yet, are they bored? Note their unaffected yawn in one of the photo reproductions.

In Nonzha Gardens, Alexandria.

We have yet photos, which will appear, alas! without notes, in future issues, and we are deeply indebted to his mother for allowing us to reproduce them.

Breeding Medals: The Awards Committee have granted medals (as under) covering the years 1920.

W. Shore Baily. Bay-fronted Cowbird.
W. Shore Baily. Hybrid Goldfinch × Sikhim Siskin.
S. Williams. Hybrid Vinaceous Turtle × Turtle Dove.

Claims for medals for the current year will be put through in due course.

The above medals will be forwarded as soon as received from the medallist.

Article Competition: There have been several enquiries re this matter. To make all clear we repeat the conditions.

1. All articles printed in Bird Notes, save those written by the Hon. Editor, will be judged by the Awards Committee indiscriminately—the competition commences with this issue, and terminates with June 1921 issue, after which, as early as possible the result will be publshed in our pages.
2. The committee will make their award on the basis of practical utility rather than mere literary merit.

Aviculture is made up of a multitude of small details, therefore those members who closely observe and record detailedly the various episodes occurring in their aviaries will be writing articles of practical utility—this applies to any and every phase of aviculture.

We trust the above will make the conditions of the competition quite clear to all.

Major Snape's object in offering these prizes is to increase the number of contributors to Bird Notes, and it will depend on the extent to which this is realised, whether his offer will be repeated or not.

Nesting Notes: Pressure upon our space excludes these this month, but *all* will appear in our next issue.

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Reviews and Notices of New Books.

OUR RESIDENT BIRDS AND HOW TO KNOW THEM: By E. F. M. Elms, illustrated with 29 photos from nature. London: Thornton Butterworth Ltd., 15, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., 2; 6s. net.

Books on British Birds are legion, and yet another one has just been issued. It is well conceived and will serve a useful purpose. Its scope is Our Resident Birds, and the plan of the book is as follows:

First, to group the birds under their main habits, as follows:

I. Birds of the gardens, orchards, and cultivated districts.
II. Birds of the woods and well-wooded districts.
III. Birds of the commons, downs, moorland and mountainous districts.

IV. Birds of the streams, rivers, lakes, and marshy districts.

V. Birds of the sea, seashore and cliffs.

Secondly, sub-divide these groups under:

(A) Colour. (B) Size.

We purpose allowing the book to speak for itself, by reprinting one of the guide descriptions under (I.) of the first grouping.

BLUE TITMOUSE (*Parus caeruleus*).

"Well distributed and common; rarer in the North of Scotland. Found well nigh everywhere, even in large cities."

"*Plumage.*—Crown blue encircled with white. Cheeks white bounded with blue; upper parts olive-green. Wings and tail blue; under parts yellow. Bill nearly black. Legs bluish-grey. Length 4¼in. Female duller; cheeks ashy. Young less blue throughout and yellower."

"*Language.*—Song, 'pim-im-im-im-im.' First two syllables pitched two tones above the rest, and rather metallic in tone. Call-note, 'tzee;' also a chiding scolding note."

"*Habits.*—One of our prettiest small birds. It is a kind of acrobatic harlequin, and seems quite as much at home hanging head downwards from a bough as in any other position. Flight undulating. It readily goes to the ground to feed if necessary. On the nest the bird sits tightly, hissing, and pecks intruding fingers (hence Billy-biter)."

"*Food.*—Insects and their larvae; but failing this practically omnivorous."

"*Nest.*—April onwards. Probably two broods."

"*Site.*—A variety of places, quaint and otherwise. Usually in a hole in a wall or tree or other suitable cavity."

"*Materials.*—Moss, leaves, grass, feathers, and cobwebs, lined with wool, hair and many feathers."

"*Eggs.*—Five to nine. White, speckled and dotted with pale purplish brown."

The book is comprehensive and of a handy size for the pocket; it will fill a want in the hands of the uninitiated. The scope of the book is Our Resident Birds, but we think its value would have been greatly enhanced if the migrants had been briefly tabulated in list form under the respective groupings, as the tyro reader will meet many birds, which the book will give him, or her, no clue to—probably this is not the author's fault. A most useful and practical gift-book for boy, girl or adult, which will enhance the pleasure of many a country ramble, or leisure hours in the garden.

A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS: By various authors, edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., with numerous half-tone and coloured illustrations. In 18 parts, price 4s. 6d. per part net. LONDON: Witherby & Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C., 1. PART XI.; This part is of the same comprehensive character as the preceding parts. It contains text figures on almost every page, making identification easy; also an excellent colour reproduction of heads and beaks of Swans and Geese. The Genus PERNIS is continued and the following Genera are dealt with, viz: *Pandion, Gyps, Neophron, Ciconia, Platalea, Plegadis, Ardea, Egretta, Ardeola, Nycticorax, Ixobrychus, Botarus, Phoenicopterus, Cygnus, Anser, Branta,* the latter to be continued in the next part.

One wishes that its completion could be hastened—it is excellent value for the price charged, and we opine the publishers need the support of every bird-lover and student: certainly they should have it.

Correspondence.

A TRAGEDY OF THE DROUGHT.

SIR,—I was much interested in a young Cuckoo in my garden, but believing its foster-parents would be feeding it all rght, I left it alone. Next day it seemed weaker, and in the evening I found it dead. A fine young bird, and fully fledged, but literally skin and bone. The following day I found the little foster-mother dead; then I called to mind I had not noticed the Wagtails about the lawn as usual the last two or three days, and it was evident that the two had died of starvation in endeavouring to supply the wants of her big foster-child. Could any bird incident be more pathetic? Had I only known, I could have saved both lives by feeding the young Cuckoo, as I have done on other occasions. The poor birds are having a terrible time generally!

July 11th, 1921. A. E. H. HARTLEY.

VISITING MEMBERS' AVIARIES.

SIR,—I am always happy to show my birds by appointment to members of the F.B.C.; but should I unfortunately be away from home I request them not to insist on seeing the birds. The aviary boy does not live on the place, and there is no competent person available.

ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants., July 3rd, 1921.

In Memoriam of a Grey Parrot.

In perpetual memory

of

CATTY-ANNE.

The beloved companion of B. THEO STEWART,

who

Fell asleep JULY 25TH, 1919.

Thou was't not born for Death, Immortal bird.

The sun was at meridian when
  Her spirit spread its wings;
And now I fancy to the sky
  Some grey and scarlet clings.
She is not, yet I know she is
  Somewhere beyond my ken,
In the grey dawn, at scarlet set
  Of sun, I see her then.

But always in the noontide's glow,
  About the hour she died,
She leaves the somewhere where she bides,
  To perch here by my side:
So thin the veil that hangs between
  Of feathers misty grey;
Then with a glimpse of scarlet sheen
  The vision flies away.

But I hear the dear familiar tone
  And know despite my pain,
That in the world that sets this right
  She will be mine again.

A. M. STEWART.

Post Mortem Reports *vide* green page 33.

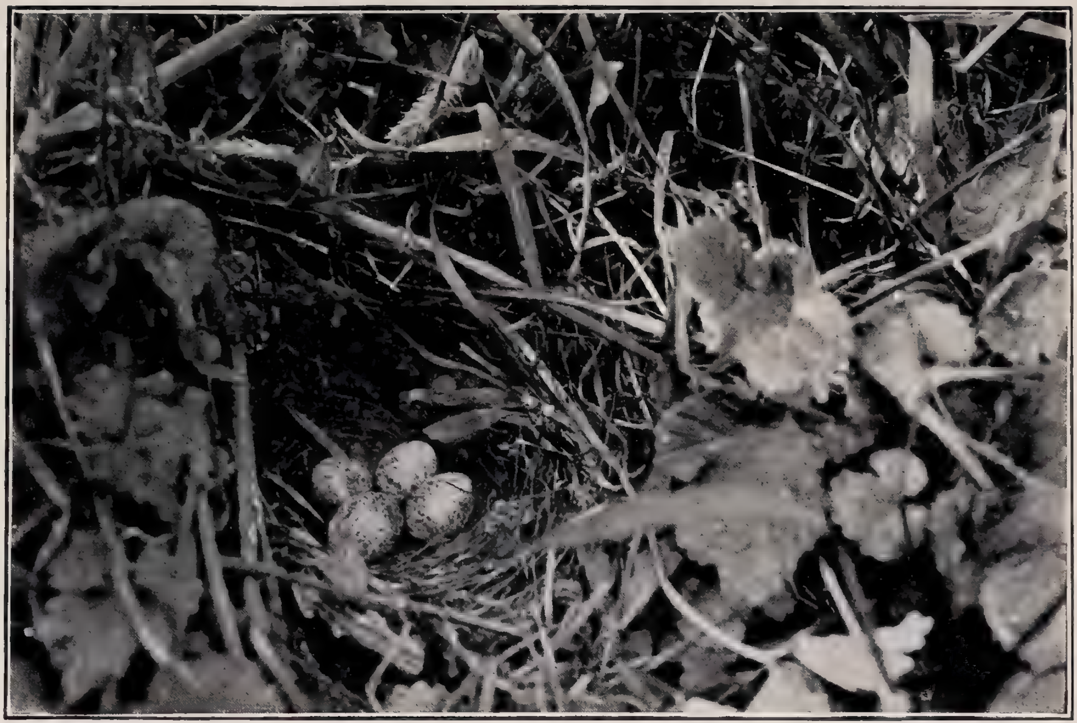

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Nest and eggs of Chingolo Sparrow.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Breeding of the Chingolo Song-Sparrow.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

My pair of Chingolos (*Zonatrichia pileata*) came from the Argentine in October last. I got a third bird from Brazil, a month or two later, which I believe to be a hen. They are pretty and interesting little birds, but do not seem to be very frequently imported. I have no doubt that they have been bred in some of our members' aviaries,* but I cannot recollect having seen any account of their doing so in our magazine. My birds are all alike, so I cannot be certain of their sex, but one of them sings very nicely, which I take to be the cock.

About the middle of June I noticed that two of them were very restless, following me all over the aviary, dodging in and out of the bushes and trees, and acting very much as our own birds do when one approaches their nests. A most careful search was not rewarded with success. A few days later I noticed one of them carrying a piece of soaked bread in its beak, so I was practically certain that it had young. A further search for the nest was still unsuccessful, but the next day, on renewing my efforts, I flushed one of the old birds from the nest; this was situated in a hole on the bank of the pond and not three feet from the water. It was, as can be seen from the photo, quite open on the front, and should have been easily seen, but its surroundings camouflaged it to a great extent. It was built of grass and lined with hair, and contained two well-feathered young ones and two clear eggs. A few days later the two young ones ran from the nest just like larks, and were soon strong on the wing. They are about the prettiest nestlings that I have seen. Colour, above brown, striated with blackish-brown; below grey, similarly striped with darker grey; a black stripe on each side of the head, enclosing a greyish patch on the crown and nape; a black stripe also runs down the back of neck from the eye; a row of white spots form a bar across the wings. No special food was provided for the parents whilst feeding their young, as, unlike most of my birds when nesting, they did not especially ask for it, but in spite of this the young are strong and well grown birds.

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* Was first bred by Mr. Teschemaker, and later by the London Zoo.—ED.

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*
Young Chingolo Sparrow in Nest.

At the time of writing (August4th) the old birds are again incubating, but I have not yet discovered the nest.

Hudson, in *Argentine Ornithology*, writes of this bird as follows:

"The common, familiar, favourite Sparrow over a large portion of the South American continent is the "Chingolo." Darwin says that 'it prefers inhabited places, but has not attained the air of domestication of the English Sparrow, which bird, in habits and appearance, it resembles.' As it breeds in the fields on the ground, it can never be equally familiar with man, but in appearance it is like a refined copy of the burly English Sparrow, more delicately tinted, the throat being chestnut instead of black, the head smaller and better proportioned and with the added distinction of a crest, which it lowers and elevates at all angles, to express the various feelings affecting its busy little mind."

"On the treeless desert pampas the Chingolo is rarely seen, but wherever man builds a house and plants a tree, there it comes to keep him company, while in cultivated and thickly planted districts it is excessively abundant, and about Buenos Ayres it literally swarms in the fields and plantations. They are not, strictly speaking, gregarious, but where food attracts them, or the shelter of a hedge on a cold, windy day, thousands are frequently seen congregated in one place; when disturbed, however, these accidental flocks immediately break up, the birds scattering abroad in various directions."

"The Chingolo is a very constant singer, his song beginning with the dawn of day in spring, and continuing until evening; it is very short, being composed of a chirping prelude and four long notes, three uttered in a clear, thin voice, the last a trill. This song is repeated at brief intervals as the bird sits motionless perched on the disc of a thistle flower, the summit of a stalk, or other elevation; and where the Chingolos are very abundant the whole air, on a bright spring morning, is alive with their delicate melody, only one must pause and listen before he is aware of it, otherwise it will escape him, owing to its thin ethereal character. They also sing frequently at night, and in that dark, silent time their little melody sounds sweetly strange and expressive."

"The Chingolos pair about the end of September, and at that time their battles are frequent, as they are very pugnacious. The nest is made under a thistle or tuft of grass in a depression of the soil, so that the top of the nest is on a level with the surface of the ground. The nest is mostly made and lined with horse-hair; the eggs, four or five, are pale blue thickly spotted with dull brown. Sometimes, though very rarely, a nest is found in a bush or on a stump several feet above the ground. Two broods are reared in a season, the first in October, the second in February or March. I have known these birds to breed in April and May, and these late nests escape the infliction of parasitical eggs. When the nest is approached or taken the Chingolos utter no sound but sit in dumb anxiety with tail expanded and drooping wings."

Breeding of Hybrid Doves.

BY S. WILLIAMS, F.Z.S.

Last year I recorded the breeding of a hybrid between the Vinaceous Turtle Dove (*Turtur vinaceus*) and the English Turtle Dove (*Turtur turtur*). This bird has been successfully wintered in my garden aviary and has proved to be a male. It differs only from its father, the Vinaceous Turtle, in the colour of the eye, which is light hazel, the same as *Turtur turtur*, and having about one-third less mottling round the neck. I had several clutches from this pair of doves, but only the one egg fertile. Early this year the same pair went to nest, and one youngster was hatched, the other egg being clear. Everything went well, and in ten days the baby was nice and plump and beginning to feather well. On the eleventh day, after feeding my birds I must have only half fastened the aviary door, and on my return from town I found the door open and the hen Turtle missing. The chance of rearing another hybrid now seemed hopeless. Although I had Canaries, Greenfinches, Weavers, and a pair of Diamond Doves in the aviary; only the mother of

Mr. S. Williams' Outdoor Aviary.

the hybrid and the cock Diamond were missing. Both returned next day and also the following day. The Diamond, being very hungry, I caught fairly easily, but the Turtle, although a very tame bird, I could not trap. Her mate called in vain, and much to my surprise took charge of the baby and fed and brooded it splendidly. At the time of writing it is three months old and a very fine bird. At present I do not know its sex, but hope it will turn out a hen. Instead of being like the one reared last year it takes after the mother and is best described as an English Turtle Dove with a faint Vinaceous wash over the plumage; eyes as in the first hybrid, light hazel. If it were seen feeding with the Common Turtle Dove in our fields it would probably not be noticed. It seems strange to me, but possibly not to other members who have had more experience with doves than I have, that a pair of birds in sound, vigorous health should only have these two fertile eggs in five clutches. They had a variety of seeds to choose from—small corn mixture, canary, rape, hemp, and brown and white millet which was the staple food of the other inmates of the aviary, soft food, and plenty of insect life in the shrubs planted in the aviary flight. If this year's hybrid should prove to be a hen I intend leaving the brother and sister hybrids in the aviary to see if they will nest next year. It will be interesting to see if the eggs are fertile and also if the young, if hatched, will throw back to the grandfather or grandmother. A few articles from other members on hybrids, would, I am sure, be of great interest, and where members live in all corners of the British Isles and also abroad, it is only by sending copy to our Journal that we can get in touch with each other. Many little episodes in our aviaries, although perhaps they seem quite *common-place*, may be of great interest to others, and also in many cases give other members a chance of comparing the successes or otherwise which they themselves have experienced.

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Notes on some Conures.

By Lawrence Pullar, F.Z.S.

For some years I was rather prejudiced against Conures, owing to the bad reputation which is given them in most books.

They are said to be quarrelsome, destructive, and dull, yet I have always found them to be the very opposite. They certainly are noisy at times, but as my aviary is at least 200 yards from the house, this does not trouble me, and I much prefer to have a pair of Conures, which can be both seen and heard, than a pair of the tiny Waxbills, which are adepts at concealing themselves in the thickest bush they can find. Conures certainly lack the grace of the Australian Broadtails, but they are far more amusing, and one can sit for hours and watch them playing together like monkeys. They afford endless amusement.

Quaker Parrakeet (*Myopsittacus monachus*): The first Conure I kept was the Quaker Parrakeet, and I found this the noisiest of the group. When I kept them I had only a small aviary for parrakeets, yet they never attempted to injure any of their fellow inmates which included Budgerigars, Rosella Parrakeets and Cockateels. They soon showed signs of a desire to nest, but unfortunately they chose the lean-to roof of the shelter, and the sticks fell off as quickly as they brought them . Eventually they settled on a dark corner of the aviary (high up under the roof), built a huge nest, and during two seasons successfully reared eight young birds. Most of these are still living in the Zoological Park in Edinburgh where they occasionally cut through the wire-netting of their aviary and enjoy spells of liberty. I should like to try the experiment of liberating a few pairs here, and as they are very hardy I see no reason why it should not be successful.

Euops Conure (*Conurus euops*): I had always wanted a pair of Euops or Speckled Conures, and last May I secured a fine pair of young birds from Mr. Rogers, of Liverpool. When they arrived they were in juvenile plumage, but since then the scarlet areas have greatly increased, and they are now as handsome a pair as one could find. They remind one of miniature Macaws and are regular avian acrobats, chasing each other round the aviary, swinging head-downwards and exploring nesting logs, all the while keeping up a hoarse chattering. They sleep every night in a log, but I do not expect them to nest this season.

Black-headed Conure (*C. nenday*): This is a very handsome bird, but unfortunately has a very shrill scream. I have a true pair of this species and can distinguish the hen by her smaller head and more sharply curved beak. My pair nested with their former owner, and, judging by their fondness for the interior of their nest-box, I am hoping that they will make an attempt this season, though I have only had them a few months.

PRINCE LUCIAN CONURE (*Pyrrhura luciani*): The Prince Lucian or Pearly Conure is one of the smaller varieties and is a very charming bird. It would ve a very suitable species to keep in the house, as it seldom utters a sound. All the Conures seem to like to sleep in a log, and this pair is no exception, but, so far, they have shown no signs of going to nest.

White-eared Conure (above).
White-winged Parrakeet (below).

WHITE-EARED CONURE (*Pyrrhura leucotis*): I consider that the little White-eared Conure is by far the prettiest of all the Conures I have kept, though I have never had a Sun or a

Golden Conure. Unfortunately the White-ear has a piercing scream, and its temper is vile. One day I foolishly introduced an odd Peach-faced Lovebird into the aviary occupied by the Prince Lucian and the White-eared Conures. Within five minutes they had cornered the newcomer in a log, and had I not been on the spot there would have been a tragedy. As it was, I had to forcibly separate the combatants and the Conure was having much the best of the fight. At present I have only a single specimen of the White-eared Conure, but I am looking forward to, and hoping for, the day when I shall have a breeding pair!

RED-MASKED CONURE (*Conurus rubrolarvatus*): Quite recently I have become the lucky owner of a specimen of this rare species, a native of Peru. My specimen was bought from a native woman, who had, so I am told, about twenty of them for sale at 15s. each. The man who bought it was certainly not an aviculturist, or he would have brought home a pair, if not several pairs. As a matter of fact he had no idea what kind of bird it was, beyond the fact that it was a parrot! He was not at all keen to part with such a tame bird, but as he was unable to get a house and had to leave the bird as a " boarder " at the bird dealer's, I was able to secure it after much persuasion. It is a charming bird and finger-tame. Its chief delight is to be carried around on my shoulder.

In size the Red-masked Conure is slightly smaller than *C. euops*, and has the whole mask and forehead bright geranium-scarlet. The wing-butts and under-coverts are also scarlet as in Euops, and there are one or two small scarlet patches on the nape. The rest of its plumage is green, ranging from brght emerald green on the neck and breast to dull olive on the flight feathers.

I am hoping to obtain a mate for my bird (which I think is a hen) ,and should I be unable to do this I shall pair it next season with a cock Euops Conure, and there should be a chance of getting some hybrids.

As regards the *menu* for Conures: all my birds get the same staple mixture, viz: canary, millet, sunflower, safflower, hemp and oats. Monkey-nuts are occasionally supplied and also wheat. I supply bunches of green oats in the ear when in season, and these are much relished. All the Conures (and nearly all other Parrots) are fond of this, and it is very amusing to watch the little Prince Lucian Conures holding up a straw in one foot after the manner of the great Macaws. All ripe fruits should be given when in season, as I believe in plenty of variety for birds in captivity. The best nesting-box for conures is one which has a long entrance run or spout leading into a nest chamber with a small hinged lid for cleaning and examination purposes. These boxes are certainly more expensive to make than the ordinary log, but they are far more suitable, as the cock can keep guard at the mouth of the spout, and the nest chamber itself is practically inaccessible to an enemy. All Parrots delight in privacy when nesting, and this should be remembered when we are trying to breed them in captivity.

Conures are not very quarrelsome birds, and several species may be kept together in a roomy aviary. At present I have the Euops and Black-headed Conures in an aviary containing Cardinals, Doves, Zebra Finches, Budgerigars, Lovebirds, etc., yet they have done no damage. The best way to avoid accidents in a mixed collection is to provide large, thick branches, and small twiggy branches in about equal proportions. The Conures and other large birds will keep to the large branches, while the small fry use the twigs and cannot be bullied there by the larger species, as the twigs will not bear their heavier weight. Taken all round the Conures are most interesting aviary birds, and, the smaller species in particular, make charming cage pets. Up till now only four or five species have been bred in captivity, so there is plenty of scope for those who want to try for an F.B.C. medal. And who does not?

Breeding the Black-cap Lory
(Lorius lory).

By Mrs. M. Burgess, F.Z.S.

Lories are not only mostly of gorgeous colouration, shapely contour, but are of a most interesting deportment—the monkeys of the parrot-tribe—one never wearies of watching their quaint and amusing play and other acrobatic performances.

But, of course, the crowning glory is success in breeding them, especially in being the first to breed a given species and so win a F.B.C. breeding medal, and, I think, with my Black-caps I have achieved this satisfactory result.

My pair only came to me in November last (ex the Marquis of Tavistock). They are a *most* perfect and gifted pair and absolutely devoted to each other—a perfect " Darby and Joan."

Hope and doubt were very much mixed at first, for the first egg was laid (April 2nd) outside the box; I replaced it twice. I then thought, as the hen did not sit, that the egg had been eaten—I could not look into the box to satisfy myself, as the cock bird had become quite savage. Then on May 4th hope predominated, for another egg was laid, and from that date the hen has only come out to feed, and, her hunger satisfied, returned to the box at once. The cock bird entered and remained in the box each night.

About June 5th the hen was more frequently out of the nest and for longer intervals, and on June 8th a young bird was seen in the nest; the interior of the nest is very dark, and it was not easy to see its contents, as examination had to be made from outside the flight. The squab when first seen was about the size of a day-old chick and sparsely covered with golden-coloured down or hair; its crop was full, but only a quick glance was possible, and I have described just what I saw in the dim light of the interior of the nest.

On June 15th I left home for a fortnight; while away I heard that there were two, perhaps more, baby Black-caps. As stated above, the first egg was laid on April 2nd, and another on May 4th; apparently others were laid later, as one could hardly look for the first egg to hatch, seeing that it was laid a month before the second egg. Yet on June 8th the first baby was seen, and on June 28th two were seen, and a broken shell of a third egg was seen outside the nest, so there may be a third baby from this egg—how many eggs were laid in all I am unable as yet to state.

On July 2nd one baby flew out of the nest at me when I looked in. This young bird is about the size of its parents, but appears smaller, as the flight and tail feathers are not yet fully developed. The juvenile plumage is as follows:

Black-cap quite distinct.

No feathers on breast.

Wings dark greenish-brown—no bright colours yet.

Both parents and young all sleep in nest-box at night, and they still remain in the nest the greater part of the day.

The hen still keeps her wonderful plumage, not a feather out of place—yet she has had quite a long spell of incubation confinement, followed by her parental duties of attendance on her progeny.

I should say the baby I saw on July 2nd was about two months old, and had the hopping movements of its parents.

On July 4th I heard the young crying loudly for food, sounded too like several voices calling—they keep so close in the nest and the light is so dim inside, and one only sees one youngster at a time, though two were seen together on the one occasion, June 28th; will this prove to be an optical illusion and there be only one baby after all?

July 5th: Youngster feathering rapidly, more of the red plumage coming out.

July 8th: Baby seen well—red body, green wings and black cap—very like its parents; not been out of box again yet, parents very anxious to cover the entrance hole and so keep the babies out of sight.

July 10th: Baby seen again this morning—black cap perfect; dark eye; black beak; plumage beneath body only partly developed, red not below breast yet; wings greenish, no purple or blue areas yet; in place of this grey; feet dark—not out of box yet.

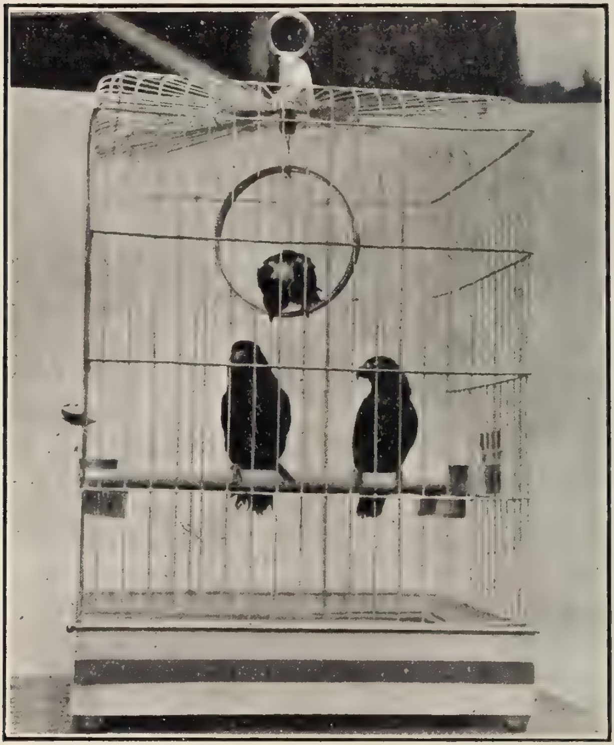
Adult birds seen pairing for first time since April 4th.

July 28th: The baby Black-cap duly left the nest to-day. It is not yet fully feathered on breast; wing green, showing yellow when flapping is going on; cheeks red; crown, eye, beak and feet black; tail growing bluish.

It is a fine big bird, really able to eat, as it bites wood, and is trotting all about the aviary and up on the perches with its parents, who appear to be very proud of it, and so am I!

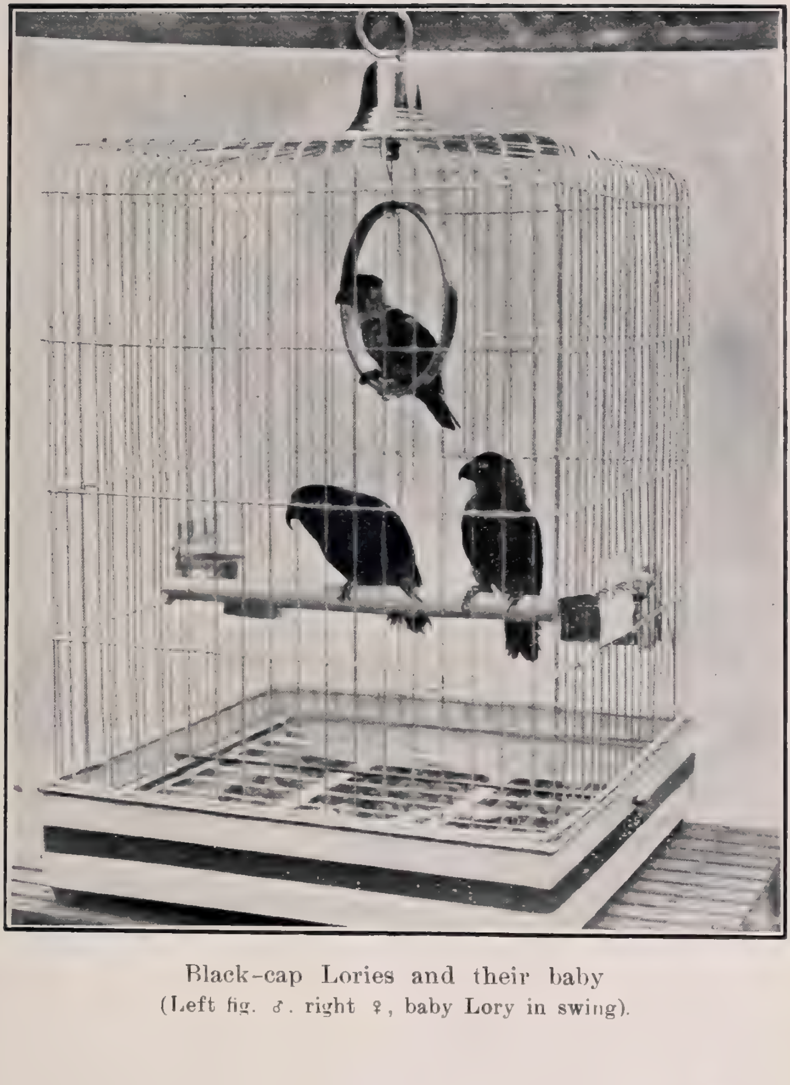
I cannot really say whether there are any more still in the nest yet; I have only seen this one; my cook asserts she saw two—time will show.

August 6th: The baby comes out daily now and is already feeding itself; perches well and is strong and healthy. The breast feathers are the last to come and these are only developing slowly.



Menu: I give the adult Lories Dr. Albanerrson's Prepared Natural Food with honey and boiled milk; also sloppy bread and milk; they suck out all the moisture from the bread. They also get ripe fruit: apple, banana, etc., apple they simply love.

The baby lory has had the same food, but now (August 15) it is feeding itself; it prefers the " prepared food;" it greedily eats both apple and banana and with evident pleasure. It is now



Black-cap Lories and their baby
(Left fig. ♂. right ♀, baby Lory in swing).

able to eat well of all the food supplies; it already exercises choice, and its tastes are as indicated above.

I have had the parents and their baby photographed, and I hope the photos can be used to illustrate this article.

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A Visit to a Bird Sanctuary.

By M. R. Tomlinson.

An account of a short visit to a Scottish bird-sanctuary may be of some interest to members of the Foreign Bird Club. The sanctuary in question is a natural one, that is to say, it owes nothing to protection, or restrictions being put upon visitors. Indeed it is one of the most famous beauty spots in Britain, and the number of tourists passing through from early spring to late autumn is very great. But they are passing through, and few diverge from the beaten track. The district is the Trossachs, where are to be found woodlands with dense undergrowth in places, bare moorland and heather-clad hillsides, and reedy loch margins. It is not to be wondered at then that, with these natural advantages, and a scanty resident population, the district should be rich in bird life.

During a brief stay in the closing days of May nearly sixty species were listed as actually seen, and this is by no means exhaustive of the kinds of birds to be found in the neighbourhood . With such a variety our account can be little more than a catalogue. Of the crow tribe the record includes the Jackdaw and the Hoodie-crow—that arrant poacher of the moors—and one deserted nest of the latter species was pointed out in a tree in a wild gorge, from which one of the parents had been shot by a keeper. Further evidence of the keeper's activities was afforded by the melancholy remains of a fine raven, gibbeted with other companions in crime on a wire fence! The common Rook does not apparently breed in the district. but later on in the season these efficient birds seem to get word of the bountiful repast of caterpillars infesting the oak woods, and appear in large numbers. The wary Jay is also a resident, and is sometimes to be seen, but oftener only heard at other seasons of the year. During the breeding season, however, this bird, at all times elusive, seems to become absolutely silent, and it does not figure on the list. In fact some of the inhabitants imagine that they leave the district in spring, to return later. There is no doubt, however, that they do nest in the neighbourhood, probably in the thick tops of some of the large Scotch firs. The Thrush and Blackbird were numerous, nests of both being seen, and a few Starlings and Sparrows were observed in the neighbourhood of houses. Commonest of all, the beautiful Chaffinch was everywhere, his fine colour scheme being displayed to advantage against the luxuriant greenery. The only other finch noted on this occasion was the Lesser Redpoll, though the Bullfinch frequently takes toll of the cottars' fruit buds, and is persecuted accordingly. Of the Buntings the Yellow was common, and one or two Reed Buntings were seen on marshy ground near Loch Vennacher. Larks were in evidence mounting from the grass parks, and the Meadow Pipit or Titlark was very plentiful. Also frequently noted was the characteristic action of the Tree Pipit, uttering his cheerful burst of nuptial song as he mounted rocket-like from some tree, to subside slowly with fluttering wings. The striking white rump of the Wheatear caught the eye as he sped with lowly flight over the stonecrops on the moors, and the harsh " tack-tack ' of the Stonechat was heard from fence or spray as he scolded the encroaching pedestrian. We expected to have the Whinchat also on the list, but missed him on this visit. The Wren, Hedge-sparrow and Robin were all common, and nests were numerous. The handsome Redstart (two nests) was also here and there. Indeed one of the last-named birds which had crept in through an open window was actually handled, and its beautiful plumage noted before it was liberated. Pied Wagtails were numerous, with a sprinkling of the more dainty Grey. The Swallow-tribe was represented by all three of the British species, viz: the Swallow proper, the House Martin and the Sandmartin. A considerable colony of the last was noted inhabiting a high sandy bank on the side of Loch Katrine. Keeping company with the swallows, but far transcending them in powers of flight, were a few Swifts. The voice of the Cuckoo was silent for but few hours out of the twenty-four, and many were seen, often in pairs, but sometimes singly pursued by an agitated Titlark or other small bird. Tits were numerous, the Great, Lesser and

Cole being all seen, but it was disappointing to miss the long-tailed Tit on this occasion. Also listed were one or two specimens of that specialist in bird-life, the Tree Creeper, well named from its unique mouse-like habits of mounting the rough bark of the tree trunks. Those tender migrants the Warblers were in evidence everywhere, a Wood Wren, Willow Wren, or Whitethroat seeming to be in every tree. There is also a doubtful record of the Chiffchaff, which depends for its place upon a slightly injured specimen picked up in the dusk of a late evening. The tiny bird was very like a willow-wren, but seemed to have the darker legs which form one of the points of distinction. From a dark firwood " the voice of the turtle "—in this case a Woodpigeon or Cushat—was heard, but the bird was not actually seen. It was disappointing not to hear the note of the Grasshopper Warbler where we had recorded it a year ago, but from information received it appears that this rare visitant is in the district again, winding its tiny reel among the low bushes. The mysterious Nightjar was heard uttering his nightly " churr-r-r " in the distance, but did not come into view. On the rapid courses of the rocky mountain burns an occasional Water Ousel was to be seen, and was found to be capable of giving voice to quite a respectable burst of song. In a cleft in a rocky face in a dark wood a nest of the Tawny Owl was pointed out, and the one youngster it contained was inspected. Possibly this was the last of a number. As is well known, the owl has the rather unusual habit of commencing incubation with the laying of the first egg, so that young of different sizes are found in the nest, and doubtless leave it in rotation. We learned that its diet consisted of rats, young rabbits, and a good many small birds. As regards the Hawk-tribe the record is blank, save by the inclusion of the remains of two fine Buzzards from the beforementioned gibbet. It is unusual not to see a Sparrowhawk or Kestrel, and even the lordly Golden Eagle is an occasional visitor to the district. On the hills Grouse were noted, and lower down. where heather meets woodland, the Black Grouse or Blackcock. Woodcock were numerous, especially in the evenings, flying over with snoring, croaking notes, alternating with a shriller " chissick." The Pewit, Redshank, Sandpiper, and Curlew were common, less plentiful being the Oyster Catcher and Snipe. Thanks to the experience gained by having kept the dainty little Dunlin in an aviary, we were able to identify a whirring, wheezy whistle as the breeding note of this bird. On the lochs the Great Black-backed, the Black-headed, and the Herring Gulls were seen, and the gaunt Heron frequently flapped his stately way over their waters. When fishing in a rocky gorge we had the rather unusual experience of seeing one of these birds which appeared suddenly round a corner, disgorge three sizeable trout, in the panic caused by the unexpected presence of a fellow fisher. Unfortunately they could not be retrieved, to eke out an all too scanty basket! Coots and Waterhens, Teal Duck and Mallard, frequented the reedy shallows of Loch Vennacher. A pair of Swans was found nesting on a beautiful wooded isle, but perhaps this semi-domesticated bird should not find a place in the catalogue. On the far-famed Lanrick Mead a rather unusual visitor to these parts—the Corncrake—was heard uttering his rasping note, harsh to the human ear, but no doubt sweet music to his nesting mate. A few Pheasants, the descendants of a number artificially reared years ago, were also seen. Last on the list came the star turn, of no inconsiderable magnitude to a Scottish observer! In a beautiful wooded glen an unfamiliar note—" pick " " pick "—arrested the attention, and glimpses were got of the wavering flight of two boldly marked black and white birds among the trees. It was an exciting moment when a Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen to clap on to the headless trunk of an old birch tree and disappear into a hole about ten feet from the ground. This was a find indeed, as this bird, though formerly nesting as far north as the Moray basin, was extinct as a Scottish breeding species for many years. Recently it has been extending its range again from the south, and it was a pleasure to add one to the few records of its nesting in Perthshire. Now it is said to have even reached Argyllshire. Has the extensive cutting of woodlands hastened the movement? A convenient tree was situated about twelve yards from the nest, and a long vigil at its foot eventually yielded an excellent view of both birds, and even a tiny photograph—perhaps the first Scottish one—of one of them. The excited chirps of the young were plainly heard on the approach of the parents, whose visits were frequent, once their alarm at the strange protuberance at the foot of the adjoining tree had subsided. All the same, it was a good two hours before they ventured to enter the nest. The flies and ants were by no means so backward!

It only remains to add that, from such a galaxy of songsters as has been mentioned, the chorus of melody was at times wonderful. The chief performers were the Blackbird, Thrush, Chaffinch, Hedge-sparrow, Robin, Wren, Whitethroat, Wood Warbler, Willow Warbler, and Tree Pipit, backed by the ever-present, monotonous, and somewhat irritating note of the Cuckoo.

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Further Notes of the Season.

By H. E. Bright.

As supplementary to the notes which appeared in the May issue of Bird Notes, pages 141-4, the following results and episodes may prove of interest.

Blue Robins (*Sialia sialis*): I reported young birds being fed in the nest. Four duly left the nest, three of whom are flying about quite strongly; the fourth met with rather a strange accident—I found it tied round and round with some long grass in a most extraordinary manner and dead. It was fully fledged and quite as well feathered and developed as the other three. The grass was wound, as if tied, round its legs, body and neck.

Ground Grosbeaks: The nesting of this pair proved a failure. There were three eggs, two of which were infertile, and I took them both away. The other egg hatched out and should be about due to leave the nest. A little later it strangely disappeared, and I suspect the Virginian Cardinals of being the authors of its disappearance.

Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca cyanea*): These have three small fledglings in the nest.

Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): After failing with their first nest one of my pairs of this species have been feeding young in the nest for more than a week. *Later*: A young bird is going about among the bushes, since when the parent birds have become quite savage.

GREENFINCH × SIKHIM SISKIN HYBRIDS: These have a second brood of youngsters in the nest.

AMERICAN ROBIN × SONGTHRUSH: The nest and eggs already reported came to nothing!

BALTIMORE HANGNESTS: The nest noted in May BIRD NOTES was duly completed, a clutch of eggs laid, and incubation is proceeding, but I do not think there can be any result as both birds have gone into a heavy moult—they have lost their flight feathers, and their tails are in process of renewal; they do not fly about much—just hop and bound from branch to branch. This nest is not so deep as the first one they built, and is constructed entirely of white fibre this time; it is little more than a deep cup. Some American friends visiting me were much interested in seeing the young Blue Robins and Virginian Cardinals feeding their young. One of them said he had plenty of Hangnests nesting just outside his house, but their nests were much longer than the one (the first nest built) I showed him.

I have a Black Seed Finch incubating three eggs, also a Swainson's Sparrow similarly engaged with three eggs, but neither of these birds, so far as I know, have any mates.

The following young have been fully reared and are flying about the avairy, but such well-known species only require tabulating:

2 Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*).
2 Australian Crested Doves (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
2 Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
8 Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*).

The birds have done better this year than last, presumably because the aviary has become established, the natural cover denser and things generally more settled. The aviary was only just completed and barely ready for the birds when the season commenced in 1920.

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More Notes of the Season.

BY CAPT. G. E. RATTIGAN, F.Z.S.

YELLOW-BILLED CARDINAL (*Paroaria capitata*): I believe I made a mistake when describing the nesting-down of the young Yellow-billed Cardinals. I fancy I stated that their down was black in colour, but on closer investigation of the second nest of young, I find that they are sparsely covered with dirty grey-coloured down, not black. The small quill feathers are black, and this, when one just takes a rapid peep into the nest, which was all I dared to do to the first nest, gives one the impression that the nestlings are covered with black down.

As will be gathered from the above the Yellow-bills have nested again and duly hatched out three young birds as before, but unhappily, when the chicks were about ten days old, they were thrown out and murdered during the course of a fracas between the Green Cardinals and the Yellow-bills; I came on the scene just too late to avert the disaster, but one young bird was still alive when picked up, but badly pecked. I replaced it in the nest, but it only survived another day. They have now (August 1st) constructed a new nest and look as though about to lay again.

Since my last notes the following have also successfully reared young:

RED-HEADED FINCH × CUTTHROAT (*Amadina erythrocephala* × *A. fasciata*): Three (two cocks and one hen) fully reared; and there is now another batch of young, ten days old, in the nest.

RED-HEADED FINCHES (*Amadina erythrocephala*): Two successfully reared at last! The old pair are now incubating again.

GOLD-BREASTED WAXBILLS (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*): After one clutch of infertile eggs these have now reared two young birds, and are now busy incubating another clutch of eggs.

RUFUS MANNIKINS (*Spermestes nigriceps*): These have reared four more and both pairs are incubating once again.

WHITE JAVA SPARROWS (*Munia oryzivora*): One pair have young in nest, same pair as before. The pair in the barn aviary are still fooling around with nesting material, but make no advance on this.

GREEN CARDINALS (*Gubernatrix cristata*): The youngster which was hatched while the Hon. Editor was staying here, is going strong, and the same pair have two more youngsters in the nest, about eight days old.

BUDGERIGARS (*Melopsidacus undulatus*): Only one nest of five Green × Yellow reared so far outside. As regards the Blue variety in barn aviary, one pair has six or seven young in the nest, but only one has actually emerged so far, and this is a rather curiously coloured bird—pale yellow above with wings and underparts a pale olive-green. I am anxious to see the rest of the family and also what changes the moult may bring.

QUAIL FINCHES (*Ortygospiza polyzona*): Two successfully reared so far. The nest was more like a squatting place than a nest proper. It was sparsely lined with feathers and rabbit fur. The exterior was composed simply of grass stems, which had been pulled down and loosely woven together. It was about the size and depth of a cricket ball with an arched entrance hole. It was, of course, situated upon the ground within about eighteen inches of the end of the little box hedge. It was built on practically dead level ground and was extremely difficult to find, for, although I knew the situation of it to within a few feet, it took me a good ten minutes to unearth it.

RED-CRESTED CARDINALS (*Paroaria cucullata*): One more youngster is fully reared. All the foregoing are entirely independent of their parents save where otherwise stated.

CORDON BLEUS (*Estrilda phoenicotis*) have young in the nest.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Taeniopyia castanotis*) also have young in the nest.

SAFFRON FINCHES (*Sycalis flaveola*): After considerable persuasion on the part of the cock bird the hen at last consented to try and raise a family. Incubation had proceeded steadily for eight days, when two days ago, after a very wet night, I noticed on entering the aviary that the cock bird, who up till this time had looked a picture of health and spirits, was looking decidedly seedy. I caught him up at once and did all I could for him, but he was dead the following morning. I can only suppose that he had roosted in some very exposed position during the night and had contracted a fatal chill. When picked up he seemed very weak and was opening and shutting his beak after the fashion of a bird affected with asthma.

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*): A brood of fifteen were hatched out and all are doing well.

This, I believe, about completes the list so far.

Lavender Finches and Dufresne's Waxbills have not advanced beyond the building stage.

The LINED FINCHES (*Spermophila lineata*) have done nothing up to the present, but the hen bird is often very busily employed on some mysterious undertaking in half-finished Weavers' nests, but it is obviously only some form of recreation.

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Editorial.

ZOO NOTES: In the *Report on Additions to the Menagerie* the following breeding successes are given:

JUNE.—

2 American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*).
3 Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*).
2 Sacred Ibis (*Ibis aethiopica*).
9 Mallard-Duck (*Anas boscas*).
1 Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
2 Southern Tri.-spotted Pigeons (*Columba phaeonota*).
2 Brush Bronze-winged Pigeons (*Phaps elegans*).
1 Dwarf Turtle-Dove (*Onopopelia humilis*).
2 Talpacoti Doves (*Chamaepelia talpacoti*).
* 3 Himalayan Monauls (*Lophoporus impeyanus*).
* 3 Silver Pheasants (*Gennaeus nycthemerus*).
* 12 Gold Pheasants (*Chrysolophus pictus*).

* *Presumably reared by foster parents.*

JULY.—

2 Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
2 Gambel's Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).
4 Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).
4 Carolina Ducks (*Lampronessa sponsa*).
2 Dwarf Turtle Doves (*Onopopelia humilis*).
4 Gambel's Quails (*Lophophortyx gambeli*).

Mr. L. Pullar informs us that a pair of RED AND BLUE MACAWS (*Ara macao*) are nesting at the Edinburgh Zoo. The eggs are deposited in a scrape on the floor of the shelter.

NESTING NOTES: Most of these appear in article form, but the following have been also reported:

In Mr. L. Pullar's aviaries, Perthshire:

Rosella Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*). Incubating.
Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*). Incubating.
Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). Several broods are being fed in the nest.
Blue-bred Budgerigars. 2 clutches of eggs about due to hatch.
Black-headed Conures (*Conurus nenday*). Incubating.
Green Cardinals and Zebra Finches are nesting.

In Capt. J. S. Reeve's aviaries, Lincoln:

Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus haematonotus*). 2 young birds being fed in the nest.

S. Triangular-spotted Pigeons (*Columba phaeonota*). These have two young Stock Doves (*C. oenas*) in the nest, which are almost fully fledged. This foster-parentage is accounted for as follows:

Spotted Pigeons have done well in Capt. Reeve's aviaries, and he would like to naturalise them in his grounds. He discovered a Stock Dove's nest in a hole in a tree near the house and changed over the eggs, which the Stock Doves hatched out and the young Triangular-spotted Pigeons are doing well and feathering fast in Stock Dove Castle, and by the time these notes appear should be flying at large.

BLUE BUDGERIGARS: The Hon. Mrs. Bourke reports that a pair, in her London birdroom, laid a clutch of eight eggs, seven of which duly hatched out and the fledglings are doing well, though seven is a good number for one pair to rear; but this number have been not infrequently reared by the ordinary Green Budgerigar.

In Mons. A. Decoux's aviaries, Gery, France, the following species have successfully reared young this season:

Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*).
Peach-faced Lovebirds (*A. roseicollis*).
Yellow Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*—var. *luteus*).
Blue Budgerigars (*M. undulatns*—var. *caeruleus*).
Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*).
Aust. Crested Doves (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
Siamese Fire-back Kaleej (*Euplocamus prelatus*).

Diamond Finches (*Steganopleura guttata*).
Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).
Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
Chinese Mynahs (*Sturnia sinensis*).
Bicheno's Finches (*Stictoptera bichenovi*).
Cherry Finches (*Aidemosyne modesta*).
Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*).
Pekin Robins (*Liothrix luteus*).
Indian Silverbills (*Aidemosyne malabarica*).

The following are incubating:

Blue Sugarbirds (*Dacnis cayana*), Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldiae*); Black-faced Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza nigricollis*) and Red-collared Whydahs (*Penthetria ardens*) are building. Melba Fnches (*Pytelia melba*) have eggs about due to hatch.

Mons. Decoux would like to exchange a pair of Black-cheeked Lovebirds for another pair, to avoid inbreeding.

Correspondence.

BIRD KEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND. ETC.

SIR,—You ask about my birds. Well I have not got a large collection just now owing to the war compelling me to dispose of my aviaries, since which I have started bird-keeping again.

I find it most difficult to get foreign birds now, and it is mostly Australian species that are coming in, and even these not so freely as formerly.

A small consignment of parrakeets landed at Wellington in April, which included Many-colours, Ring-necks, and Pennant's. I bought a pair of each species, but they *all* died within a few days; a most unhealthy lot.

I have just obtained a pair of Mealy Rosellas, fine, healthy birds. In the aviaries I have Red Rosellas, Red-rumps, Cockateels, Doves and some Australian finches.

Gouldian finches are very difficult to obtain now; I have bred many of these lovely birds and always found them very hardy. I have also bred Diamond, Double-banded, Red-browed (Sydney Waxbill), and Masked finches.

Our own indigenous birds are, I am sorry to say, becoming very scarce. We have two native parrakeets, both green, but one has a red head and the other a yellow one; when I was a boy they were most common all over the country, but now one has to get away back into the bush to find them, and even there they are few and far between. My sister has a pair in her aviary at Masterton, but she has not succeeded in getting them to breed as yet.

The Tui is another of our beautiful birds. a honey-eater; the bush used to be alive with these and the Makomako or Bell Bird, also a honey-eater. The song of both species used to fill our bush with music. but now one can travel all day through the bush and hardly hear a bird.

All our native birds are now protected, but I am afraid many of them are doomed to become extinct before many years pass.

We have a goodly number of English birds wild here, viz: Goldfinch, Yellow hammer, Greenfinch. Hedge Sparrow, Skylarks, Blackbirds, Thrushes. and, of course, the House Sparrow. the latter species being the most common and to be found in every suburban garden, but none of them, to my mind, can make up for the loss of our own native birds.

Aviculturists are few and far between here. only three of us in Wellington that I know of, and only one in Auckland. I often envy the aviculturists of England, they are so numerous, have free intercourse. and can compare notes with each other; besides they have the London Zoo.

Kilburnie, Wellington, N.Z., 23: v.: 21. ANDREW AINSWORTH.

◆

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR OF LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES.

Dear Sir,—I have a pair of Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*), which have behaved in rather an unusual manner this season.

They have made three attempts at nesting: the first nest had five eggs; they brought out two dead young birds a day or two old. and successfully reared one young bird; the other two eggs were fertile. but did not hatch out.

The second nest was a complete failure; they hatched out three chicks, but brought them all out dead when only just born.

The last nest was quite recently; they had five eggs, brought out two dead youngsters about the same age as the others, and had three left in the nest. They are now about ten to twelve days old. This week the parent or parents must have brought two of them out of the nest, for I found one evening two on the aviary floor alive, and, I think, unhurt (it was quite impossible for the birds to have fallen out in the place I discovered them). I replaced them in the nest and found them all well in the morning, but in the evening two were on the floor again, and apparently unhurt. I again replaced them in the nest. but was not at all sure I was doing the best thing for the young birds. The next morning they were again out. and I decided to put one in the proper nest, and give the others to a pair of Bengalese to see if they would do the right thing as foster parents. This pair of birds had had two eggs in their nest-box for some weeks, but have reared nothing this season or last; they are two years old. The parents, however, were particularly good, and I had noticed an odd Bengalese feeding them, so I had concluded it was a fair risk to give this particular pair the young Long-tail. I found yesterday a dead young bird in the Long-tails' nest, but the other was alive, and also the one with the Bengalese, who have now had it two days and seem particularly happy with it. and I have every hope they will bring it up.

I am wondering if it would be advisable to give the Bengalese the other youngster to rear. as I am afraid the parents will not do their duty. What would you suggest? The pair of Long-tails seem to have the idea that one of their young is in the Bengalese nest-box; they have not interfered with them at all, but look in the box rather curiously. If the foster parents bring up the bird do you think there would be trouble, when it leaves the nest, from the parents? If so, what would you advise me to do?

I might add that this pair of Long-tails, after two failures last season, brought up, in a fine manner, a nest of five. all of whom did well. I am giving mealworms and food generally the same now as then. The hen is two years old; the cock bird must be five years old and *may* be six.

I am sorry to trouble you, but as this is an unique experience for me I thought you would be good enough, perhaps, to suggest what you would do under these conditions. Naturally I am anxious, if possible, to successfully rear the two that are left. I might add that these two (and the one which died this week) look strong and well fed.

New Malden, Surrey, 12 : viii. : 21. R. N. GIBBARD.

The following reply was sent:

If you have mice in the aviary possibly these pests are responsible for the various mishaps; again, a prolonged hot season, such as we have experienced this year, does not usually prove a good breeding season—chicks dead in the shell predominating.

You do not say whether the callow young brought out dead had been fed or not ;if not, then the vigour of the parents drove them to the desire to nest again to the neglect of their young. In such cases it usually is the last nest of the season that is the successful one—with the approach of the moult and the wane of the season the intense craving to go to nest again abates, and their offspring in the nest receive the attention they need, to be successfully reared.

As regards your present difficulty: I incline to the opinion that it would be better to leave the young birds as they are—I should not expect the adult Long-tails to interfere with the young bird, which the Bengalese are rearing—if they should by any chance do so, then catch up the Bengalese and their foster baby and transfer them to a cage—placing cage in some fairly sheltered part of the aviary.

I shall be interested to hear how matters progress.

WESLEY T. PAGE.

SEXUAL DISTINCTION OF MOCKING BIRDS.

Sir,—Last year I bought a Mocking Bird (*Mimus polyglottus*), said to be a young cock; it never sang a note. and as it still remained silent in the early part of this spring I concluded it was a hen. During April it surprised me by bursting into song, while in a large cage hung out in the grounds. and it has sung practically daily since. He has heavy white wing-bars. and I am informed that these are much less so in the hen.

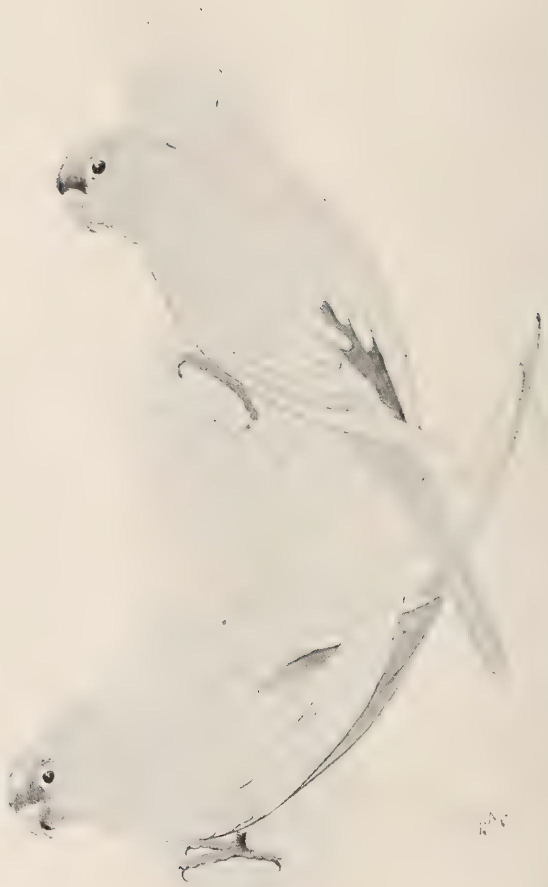
Harrogate, 30: 4: 21. H. CARR-WALKER.

[Much regret the above got mislaid among other papers, hence its belated appearance.—Ed.]

THE DELICACY OF BLACK-CHEEKED WAXBILLS.

Sir,—I should be interested to hear other member's experience with this species (*Estrilda erythronota*); they seem to be very delicate and can never have enough heat; even in this weather they huddle together as if cold, and snatch every streak of sun.

Leadenham: July 18th, 1921. J. S. REEVE, Capt.



Prince Lucian's Conures.

A.P.P.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Breeding the Orange-billed Saltator.

By HERBERT E. BRIGHT.

The story of my Ground-Grosbeaks is, to me, a very interesting one, and I will tell it from the beginning.

Last autumn Mr. Rogers, of Liverpool, wrote me that he had a consignment of South American birds in, so, on the look-out for rarities, I went round to look at them. Among them were some Large Brown Grosbeaks, which were quite new to me, and I selected what I thought to be a true pair -time proved my choice to be a correct one, but for some time I feared the one I chose as a hen would prove to be a young male; it was the cleanest, strongest, and most vigorous of the lot -some had dark horn-coloured mandible, and others had the lower-mandible yellowish horn-colour.

I am not sure what species they are, but the following very sketchy description may be useful—I do not think they have been previously bred in this country—but they prove to be not Ground Grosbeaks, but Orange-billed Saltators (*Saltator aurantiirostris*), being one of the *Tanagridae*.

Male: Top of head, wings and tail blackish-brown; fore-head, eye region, ears, and sides of neck black, bordered above by a varying fawny-brown line; also a large bib of fawny-brown margined irregularly with black; throat, breast and underparts fawny-brown; upper mandible blackish, lower horn-yellow.

Female: Brownish-black above, with a tawny-brown mark at the back of the eye; underparts similar to male, but more dusky and no clearly defined bib; mandibles black.

I took them home, and in a few days turned them out in the large aviary. The hen at once gathered a few sticks and straws together, and with a little hay made the beginning of a nest; this was never completed—in fact it was soon ignored.

In the early spring I drove all the birds into the bird-house, and did not let them out again until the shrubs and trees had made a good start, and the aviary had been cleaned up generally.

As soon as they had access to the flight again they commenced to build a large and strong nest in an elder bush. The nest was constructed of strong twigs for a foundation, and work progressed, smaller twigs, hay and rootlets being used, with hair, fibre and fine hay for interior lining. The exterior of the nest was rough, not unlike a large blackbird's nest, but the interior was well finished. Eggs were deposited and incubation commenced; soon, when the hen was off for a feed, I went and had a peep to see what the nest and eggs were like; I did not touch or handle, but she never went near the nest again. There was only one egg in it, something like a thrush's.

Another nest was commenced in one of the flight's small shelter sheds; it was completed in a few days, but they did not appear satisfied with it, and commenced another nest outside in one of the elder bushes. This again they left, and shortly I found them to be incubating a clutch of four eggs in the nest they had built in the shelter shed. Only one of the eggs hatched out, which did well, but left the nest prematurely, when only partly fledged, much as the smaller thrushes and blackbirds do here This young bird used to climb about in the bushes and on the ground; the parent birds attended to it well. I saw it many times, and it greatly resembled the hen bird, except that the colour was darker. I imagined it to be fully reared, but for some reason it disappeared possibly its parents stopped feeding it, or it failed to find water; the weather was very dry and hot, and the water obscured by tall grass.

Another nest had been built and the hen was incubating again, an elder being again the favoured bush. They had begun to feed their young before I went away for three weeks, and on my return I found two strong young birds, fully as large as their parents, flying about. In a few days I saw them eating buds, and coming in the evening for a drink and a feed of live-food (gentles), which is always kept in a tin.

I think these are two cocks, for they closely resemble their male parent, except in one or two small details: their mandibles are light yellow horn-colour, and they have no clearly defined bib.

Both parents and young are not at all shy; they come quite close for live-food.

The hen sat closely, but used to come off for a feed in the evenings. The cock bird was very attentive to his mate, and used to carry food to her, also feed her when she came off the nest—mealworms, hop buds or anything he could get.

I never saw the male take any share in incubating the eggs.

Both male and female worked hard at the construction of the nest.

The young were fed for the first few days entirely upon mealworms, which were carefully killed before being taken to the nest; I used to think the mealworm had been eaten, but found they flew away with it and brought it out of their mouth to undergo further preparation before flying off to the nest with it. After the first day or two the young were fed on mealworms, gentles, milk-sop, buds from the hop plants, and later on seeds as well.

These grosbeaks are quite quiet in the aviary except when nesting, and then, as one would expect, they rush at and drive away any birds that come near their nest.*

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Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Mrs. Burgess' Birds (*Continued from page 161*): Continuing the account of the Parrots and Parrakeets, the next on our list, omitting those species of which the notice already given should suffice, is:

Uvaean Parrakeets (*Nymphicus uvaeensis*): Mrs. Burgess' specimen of this beautiful and rare parrakeet certainly does her credit, for it is really a difficult bird to keep—the few specimens that have so far reached England alive have, with only one or two exceptions, enjoyed but a very short life in captivity.

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* At the time the article was written Mr. Bright only knew his birds by the dealer's name, Ground Grosbeaks.—Ed.

The late Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton thought it to be a food difficulty—he had twelve specimens in all, and tried a very varied dietary with them, but they very quickly died off one by one; therefore it would be very practical and useful if Mrs. Burgess would kindly send full notes as to how she has fed and treated her specimen (I think she has only one) since it has been in her possession.

Mr. R. Phillips had a pair in 1897, but the male (sickly when received) soon died, but the hen did well and became very tame. He fed her on a seed mixture of. canary & hemp; dry crumbled biscuit, date or fig cut into small pieces; now and then she got a sound banana (not peeled), and sometimes half an orange. The great difficulty was to relieve her craving for grit, and to get her into a healthy state without block or stoppage of any kind. She was sometimes given fluid magnesia and sometimes sulphate of iron.

On the continent they have been kept with varying success, and Baron von Cornely succeeded first in breeding three hybrids between *N. uvaeensis* and *N. cornutus*, and later successfully reared young of *N. uvaeensis*.

A good coloured plate of this species appeared in B.N. for September 1910.

ROCK GRASS-PARRAKEETS (*Neophema petrophila*): These beautiful parrakeets are quite rare on the English market, and have been very costly to procure for some time past.

Their colouration is quiet but beautiful: brownish-green above, with blue in their flights and a frontal band of the same hue; beneath yellowish-green, almost pure yellow on breast and middle of abdomen.

They are not a robust, and yet not a delicate species; they should be removed to indoor quarters on the approach of cold weather.

Mrs. Burgess' birds were in fine form, looking quite happy and contented with their company and quarters.

BARNARD'S PARRAKEETS (*Barnardius barnardi*): One of the most beautiful (not a garish patch of colour in its varied plumage) of the broadtails; in form and deportment similar to the Rosella Parrakeet and requires the same food and treatment.

The Broadtails are not notorious for amiability during the breeding season, but Barnard's is one of the most amiable of the group.

Description—Adult male: Green; forehead bright red; top of head, cheeks, upper breast, abdomen, centre of wings, and rump verditer-green; a broad crescentic band of brownish-green passes across the hind-head extending from eye to eye; a broad orange-yellow band crosses centre of abdomen; smaller wing-coverts rich blue; greater wing-coverts and secondaries green, blue at base; tail green, blue at base, and bluish-white at tips. Bill light horn-colour; feet brownish.

The female is a little duller in colour and has a smaller head, and slighter upper mandible.

This species has not bred freely in captivity, though Lord Tavistock and another aviculturist have been fairly successful with it. Will Lord Tavistock kindly favour us with an account of his success?

There is really no reason why Barnard's should not be as freely and easily bred as the Red Rosella Parrakeet, and it certainly would be worth the while of members to try and secure pairs.

RING-NECKED PARRAKEET (*Palacornis torquatus*): This is one of the most freely imported and one of the longest known to aviculture of all parrakeets; yet it has been successfully bred on but few occasions, and another point in its favour is that the sexes can be easily told in adult birds, for the hen has no black and pink neck-ring. Its beauty is undeniable, and a pair would adorn any aviary.

Mrs. Burgess' pair were a perfect picture, lovely bloom, not a feather out of place and very steady.

It is a native of India, which country supplies so many other beautiful birds to adorn our aviaries and increase our knowledge of the world's avifauna.

MOUSTACHE PARRAKEET (*P. fasciata*): This is not so graceful a bird as the preceding, but a perfect pair, as were Mrs. Burgess', are beautiful indeed.

They are hardy and can be wintered out of doors with ease, and Mr. Shore Baily found them to take no notice of the small birds, which he kept in the same aviary with them, but he found the Moustache Parrakeet a shy breeder, and, writing from memory, I am not aware of any published record of the successful breeding of this species, which is surprising, for it has been long with us and plentifully imported.

Now just a word on keeping small passerines with parrakeets, excluding Budgerigars and Lovebirds. It is all a matter of space; if the birds have plenty of space and are not on the top of each other the parrakeets will ignore the passerines, though there will not be much breeding among the latter—nests and nest-boxes get cut to pieces as one would or should expect. If the space is restricted then do not mix the two groups, for if you do tragedies will be fairly frequent—*verb sap.*

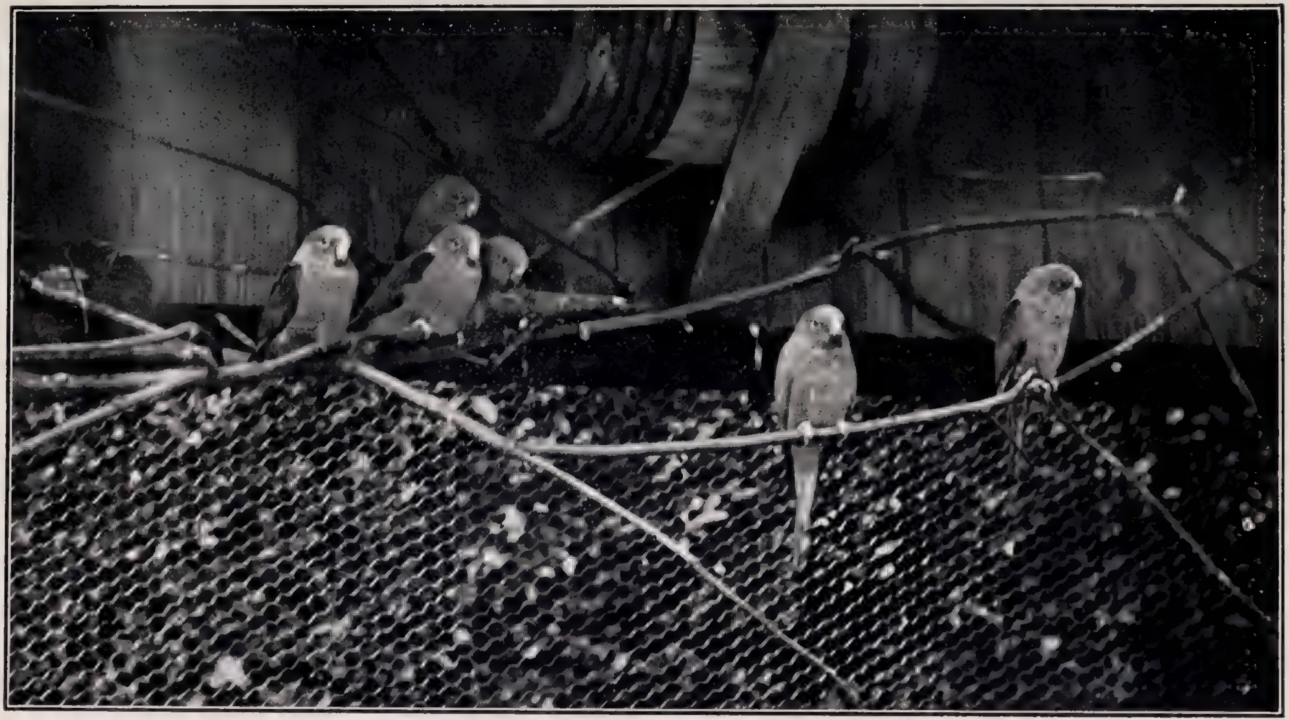
ALL-GREEN PARRAKEET (*Brotogerys tirica*): This is a delightful parrakeet of the *Conuridae* group, not showy, but exceedingly handsome and graceful, both in appearance and deportment. Except for some blue in wings and tail, its popular name is most appropriate, but, at the same time, it is not a one-coloured bird, for the hues and tints of its green garment are many, and the whole colour arrangement very pleasing.

The late Dr. Lovell-Keays successfully bred this species, and gave a most interesting account of nis success in BIRD NOTES for November 1914, and we reprint the photo of the family party of old and young here.

In my aviaries here young were reared three years ago, though several broods were hatched out previously but not reared. Alas! both old and young were among the birds which an incursion of rats the following winter robbed me of. I found them less quarrelsome at breeding time, for they had for company budgerigars, two juvenile Bengal Parrakeets, two juvenile Blossom-headed Parrakeets, an odd Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, and a pair of Cockateels—all of which lived together in harmony while the All-Greens reared their young (three), and also continued in harmony after the young All-Greens made their exit from the nest-barrel—when the rats were exterminated and their ingress made as impossible as human effort could achieve—very few parrakeets were left.

I mean to have another pair as soon as opportunity and times allow.

To be continued.



A Family Group of All Green Parrakeets (*Brotogerys tirica*).

Photo) *(E. O. Page.*

Budgerigars at Liberty.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

The possibility of acclimatising this beautiful little parrakeet (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) in England suggested itself to aviculturists as early as the middle of the last century; it is a plan which, unfortunately, will never be realized, because the Budgerigar, unlike certain larger parrakeets which do become entirely independent of artificial food, is entirely harmless both to fruit and cultivated grain. In the summer, when grass seed is plentiful, it can fend for itself alright, but in winter, not being a bud-eater, it is speedily reduced to starvation.

The first experiments with Budgerigars at liberty were tried with imported birds; the result seems to have been always the same: the first summer they stayed and bred freely, but that autumn, or at the latest, the autumn of the year following, the restless, migratory instinct asserted itself, and old and young vanished, never to be heard of again. I have read somewhere of an aviculturist living near the Solway, who kept Budgerigars at liberty for several successive years, and, if there is any truth in the story, details would be extremely interesting.

Last year I determined to see if I could have any success with Budgerigars at liberty during the summer months only; accordingly I obtained a few aviary-bred pairs from different sources, and after keeping them in an enclosure long enough to accustom them to their surroundings, I released them in the early summer. The experiment, on the whole, was a failure, but it taught me certain things:

1. That whatever the respective merits of the two colours in an aviary, there can be no doubt that at liberty Yellows are the more showy and attractive.
2. That Budgerigars fall into three classes—the fools who fly away on the day of their release; the annoying ones who leave after some weeks, just when you hope they are settling down; the sensible ones which stay like homing pigeons.
3. That the hardiness of Budgerigars has been greatly exaggerated—our modern aviary-bred ones have no real

stamina at all, but contract chills on the very slightest provocation, like newly imported waxbills.

1920 was, of course, a villainously wet summer, and it was quite too much for the Budgerigars; the majority were continually on the sick list and needing to be caught up and nursed. All the hens that nested died egg-bound, and the one or two that survived were killed by an unmated Banded Parrakeet who made herself an intolerable nuisance to breeding birds until I caught her up.

By September only one pair of Greens remained at liberty; these took possession of a nest-box, and I quite hoped for a belated brood; but even this was not to be. One evening I saw the hen sitting just inside the box; next morning she was still sitting in the same position, and closer inspection showed that she was dead egg-bound. Her mate flew into our neighbour's house to join a pair of caged Budgerigars, and I took him in for the winter.

In March of this year I released him with a new hen, and they soon showed signs of breeding; then the hen fell ill and had to be caged and kept warm; soon after her recovery and release the cock disappeared—whether he died or met with an accident will never be known.

In late April a few more pairs were released, and one cock mated with the widowed hen, and they nested in a hollow elm down the lane. A pair of Yellows contracted chills during the very fine weather we had in May, and unfortunately received fatal injuries in being caught.

As far as we could tell two Yellow hens and a Green nested in an elm tree in the garden, and for a time things looked more hopeful. During June I had to catch up a Green cock and a non-breeding hen who developed chills; but at the end of the month the cock from the lane brought a young bird to feed; in the course of a week or so three more appeared, all, strange to say, pretty badly plucked. When the youngsters seemed well on seed and independent of their parents, I caught three of them up, and later the fourth, who seemed ill. This latter bird soon died (it had a chill) and to my disappointment all the three others began to look seedy, and one joined its brother in a better land; my aviary attendant then luckily thought of putting the others on soaked seed, and the effect was most satisfactory, as they completely recovered. Apparently they could not digest the dry seed, although they had been eating it at liberty for some time, and seemed to be getting little else. Not long after the capture of his family, I noticed the old cock looking out of sorts—chill once more—and I had to take him in. I expected the hen would appear as soon as he no longer came to feed her, but I never saw a sign of her, so she must have died egg-bound, or met with an accident, as I hardly think the poor thing would be so misguided as to starve on the nest rather than leave her eggs for a few moments to feed—has such a habit ever been observed in the case of sitting hens deprived of their mates?

By this time nothing but a solitary Yellow cock remained, with an uncertain number of hens in the elm tree, whom I trusted he was engaged in feeding. Certainly, by the amount he ate, he had more than himself to support, and in August four Green youngsters made their appearance, and at about the same time a Yellow hen I had not seen for some weeks. I cannot say if she was their mother, for I never saw her feed them. The young birds did well, and in due course were safely caught up for next year's stock, but soon afterwards the Yellow cock duplicated the performance of his Green comrade by getting a chill, and he, too, had to be brought indoors. Again I hoped for a reappearance of sitting hens, but again I was disappointed; only the same Yellow continued to visit the feeding tray, and, as she was moulting I caught her up, and so ended the experiment for the year. It can hardly be called a brilliant success, though it proves that Budgerigars can be kept and bred at liberty during the summer months, and beyond question they are a charming addition to a garden, and a source of continual pleasure to the owner and his friends. But does it not look as though present-day breeders are losing the stamina which once gained the Budgerigar the reputation of being the hardiest and most prolific of small foreign birds? Chills and egg-binding from beginning to end, and even when the birds have been kept in aviaries, my experience has been much the same, and, as I said before, I have had stock from *many* sources.

In Captain Rattigan's Aviaries.

Compiled by W. T. Page.

From a private letter (dated August 18th) I have taken the liberty of extracting the following notes, as being of interest, forming, as some of them do, the sequel to some of the episodes recorded by Capt. Rattigan in August Bird Notes, pages 194-7.

Hybrids. The cross-mated pair of Red-headed Finch × Cutthroats have brought off a second brood –the first brood consisted of three, 2 ♂ and 1 ♀ – three more young hybrids are on the wing, 1 ♂ and 2 ♀; they are flying strongly.

Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*). Capt. Rattigan has two pairs of this species, one pair of which (in barn aviary) has, as already recorded, fully reared one young bird, and are now rearing another only child. The second pair did nothing, the hen being the defaulter; later she was removed and another hen was put in the aviary—still things did not go smoothly, and again it was the hen that was at fault, but at last they are "playing the game," and are steadily incubating two eggs.

Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*): The rainfall following the drought, brought in its train the usual crop of nesting mishaps, etc., that are common to such occasions. The cock Saffron roosted out one very wet night, caught a chill—rather remarkable this for the hardy Saffron Finch—and in spite of its owner's care died the next day. A clutch of eggs was being incubated and the hen sat steadily on and is now feeding three young babies—may she rear them!

Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phoenicotis*): A pair of this species were incubating at same period as above and got half drowned during the downpour; they deserted in consequence when their eggs were about due to hatch; result a dead chick in each shell.

Rufous-backed Mannikins (*Spermestes nigricollis*): These are still going strong and have brought off their brood. The same also applies to Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*)

Blue × Blue-bred Green Budgerigars: Their brood have now flown, four in all, two Greens and two very pale

Yellows, almost white in fact--this seems to Capt. Rattigan rather odd, and he will be interested to watch development, also to see what their plumage is like after the moult.

Lavender Finches (*Lagonosticta caerulea*), and Dufresne's Waxbills (*Estrilda dufresni*) are still nesting, but do not advance beyond that stage.

The fifteen Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californica*) chicks hatched out are doing well and growing strongly.

The probable reason why Capt. Rattigan has suffered loss from the recent rainstorms is, I think, owing to the bushes he planted last fall having died—the dead bushes not supplying sufficient protection against the wet. I have often had birds (small *Fringillidae*) roost out during nights of heavy rain in Cupressus and other evergreen bushes, with their plumage quite dry the next morning and not one whit the worse for their experience, and this, not only in the summer season, but in th winter also.

Notes of Yorkshire Birds.

By H. Carr Walker.

Having been asked to make a note of the dates upon which migratory and other birds arrived here in the Spring I give a list below:

Missel Thrush—January 31st.
Green Woodpecker—February 6th.
Yellow-Hammer—February 24th.
Pied Wagtails—February 24th.
Cuckoo—March 11th.
Greenfinch—March 11th.
Bullfinch—March 20th.
Tree Pipit—April 5th.
Grey Wagtail—April 6th.
Rosy Pastor—April 8th.
Swallow—April 23rd.
Redpoll—April 23rd.
Corncrake—May 1st.
Spotted Flycatcher—May 12th.
Willow Warbler—May 12th.
White-throat—May 12th.
Kingfisher—May 18th (nest).

This place is situated about four miles from Harrogate, and the dates given are those upon which we noticed their arrival in this particular area, where they breed annually.

We notice that the Warblers do not come in until the warm weather is fairly assured. The Grey Wagtails are beautiful birds and not common, but a pair breed annually on the banks of the stream.

There has been a voluminous correspondence in the *Yorkshire Post* as to whether Missel Thrushes do or do not sing; so that the knowledge of bird life here is not all it should be.

Apparently there is a shortage of Swallows this season, judging by reports; here we have had our full number of pairs and I counted on the house forty birds at one time on various occasions over the past three weeks.

The Kingfisher is a native, and can always be found "fishing" on the bright sunny days in winter. We had one nest containing six eggs, which were duly hatched out, and the young ones safely reared and away, which, in face of their numerous enemies, is very pleasing.

Considering the nearness to large towns there is an extraordinary variety in the wild bird life here. The Barn and Eared Owls are fairly common and spend much time in the garden which is well-wooded, and I have seen one in broad daylight hunting the pigeons flying overheard. Sparrow hawks are common, and Magpies a perfect pest. Woodcock, Snipe and Curlew are frequently seen. Wild Duck breed on the banks of the stream, as do Water-hens and Ring Ouzels. Yesterday a flock of thirty-six wild geese came over the house, flying very low. There are a number of Herons about regularly, and they are apparently considerably increasing in numbers.

In regard to the Woodpeckers it should be mentioned that though common in the Midlands they are rarely seen here, and the appearance of the Rosy Pastor in the Holderness District is quite exceptional. It is good to notice more general interest is being taken in bird life, and that regular notes are now printed by the leading newspapers in the North; this, combined with the fact that the rare birds are holding their own in numbers and perhaps increasing, makes the study the more satisfactory.

Weavers.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Weavers are a very numerous and showy group of birds, and with the exception of a few species are confined to the Continent of Africa, where they suspend their interesting nests (mostly over water) from the branches of trees growing on the banks of African rivers. While this is the general rule, it is not an invariable habit for them to be so placed, for trees covered with their quaint and clever structures are found quite away from water, but the photos, illustrating these notes, taken by the late Lieut. F. Dawson-Smith, all represent nests hanging over water—the two showing nests in my aviary are not so placed, as at present bathing and drinking water is still supplied in earthen vessels.

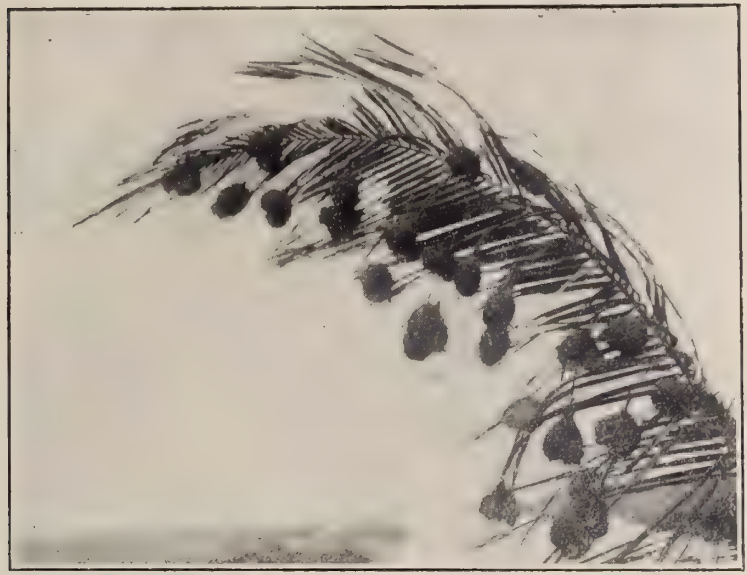
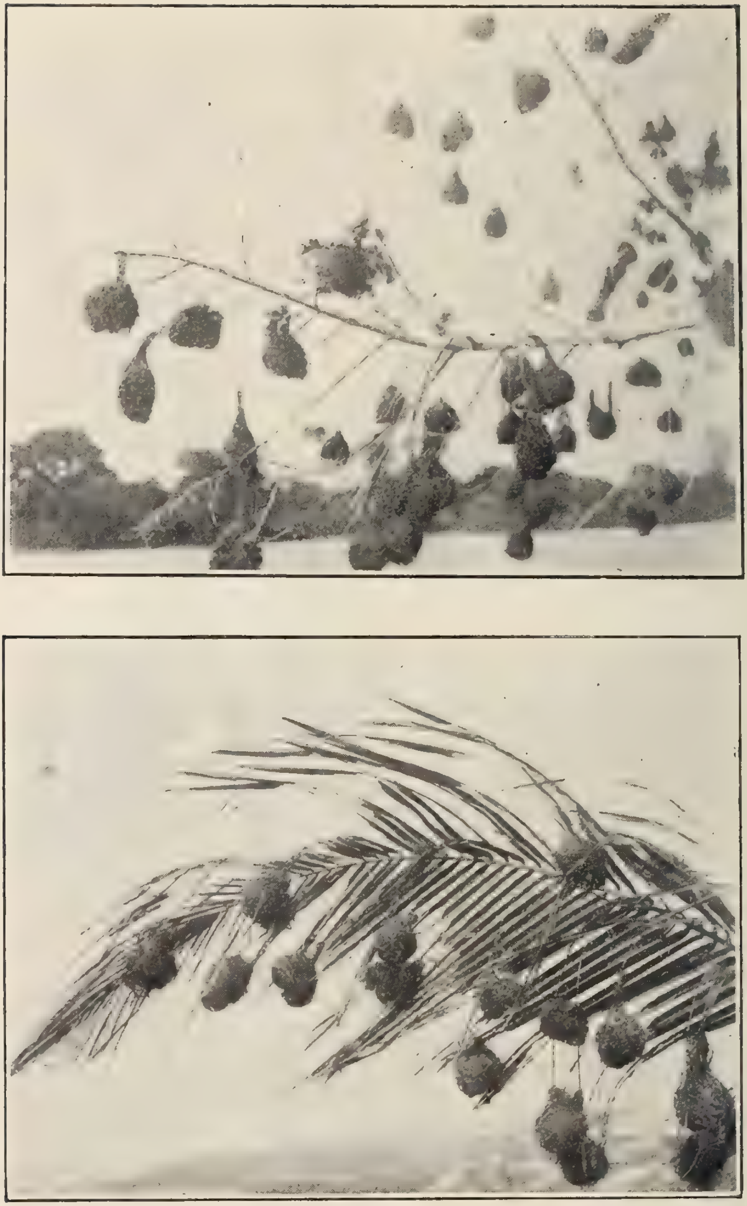


Photo by the late Lieut. Dawson-Smith.

Weavers' Nests *in situ*—Juba River.

When I wrote my book *Aviaries and Aviary Life* very few species of weavers had been bred in English aviaries, but since their progress has been very rapid and now quite a number of species have been succssfully bred.



Photos by the late Lieut. Dawson-Smith.

Weavers' Nests *in situ*—Gobwen, Jubaland.

In my aviaries the following species have successfully reared young:

Taha Weaver (*Pyromelana taha*).
Napoleon Weaver (*P. afra*).
Crimson-crowned Weaver (*P. flammiceps*).
Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*).

Mr. W. Shore Baily has also bred quite a few species of Weavers, and the late Dr. Lovell-Keays bred both the Taha and Napoleon Weaver, and also successfully crossed the two species. With one exception all the above successes occurred in roomy, naturally planted, wilderness aviaries, the exception being the Grenadier Weaver (*Pyromelana oryx*), when Mr. Quincey de Quincey bred them in quite a moderate-sized aviary containing no living trees or shrubs; but only occasionally does such an episode occur, for as I write I cannot call to mind an instance of, even the Red-billed Weaver (*Quelea quelea*), being successfully bred other than in a roomy, natural, wilderness aviary.

Very many of the Weavers have been known to aviculture from very early days, and many of the African species must be classed among the most freely of imported foreign birds.

Personally I have never made a speciality of weavers, though I have kept a good many species one time and another, but not always in pairs. I kept the common Red-billed Weaver off and on for a good many years before I succeeded in successfully breeding them, since when they have bred with me on several occasions. But I usually have one or two pairs of weavers and other odd males in my general aviary, containing a mixed collection of birds of very varied species.

Weavers attract many aviculturists by their seasonal change of plumage. The nuptial or breeding garment (commonly termed being in colour) is a striking and beautiful one, with a satiny surface and the hues more or less iridescent. When in colour they are highly ornamental and glorify the mixed aviary. Moreover they are not retiring birds and are mostly in the picture. They are indefatigable nest builders, and fill an aviary with their strange, interesting and varied structures. While their nests may be said to have a family likeness, yet, where several species are kept, there is considerable variety- from a mere sphere with an entrance hole at the front to a sphere with a more or less elongated spout, in which case the latter forms the entrance, which is from beneath; and there are numerous intermediate types. My readers should refer to back vols. of BIRD NOTES, where they will find many photos of these nests, mostly witnesses of Mr. Shore Baily's skill, in which the above is strikingly evident.

Yet the above statement needs some qualification, as the description reads more like a waxbill's than a weaver's nest. Bachelor weavers' nests vary considerably according to the species, and a weaver's nest is not so true a sphere as a waxbill's; again, the waxbill places its entrance hole higher up; the weaver places it all but at the base; in some (quite a few) species it

Photo E. O. Page.

Nests of Rufous-necked Weaver.

actually is beneath. The Red-billed Weaver, when unmated, builds almost a sphere, with the entrance hole very frequently in almost the identical position of a waxbill's; but the nest of a pair is of a very different type, being quite elliptical and deep with the entrance hole quite high up, as in the illustration herewith this photo was taken after the young had emerged several days, and the entrance hole had been much enlarged in a downward direction, either to allow the young freer egress, or soon after they had emerged; for some days after the young made their exit, the three young and both parents crowded into the nest each evening and slept there, doing this so long as they were still fed by their parents. In the genus *Hyphantornis* there is very little difference between a bachelor nest and the nest of a breeding pair, the former merely lacking lining, which portion of the work is invariably done by the hen bird.

Nest of Red-billed Weaver.

The two photos of nests in my aviary which illustrate these notes are the work of an unmated male Rufous-necked

Weaver (*Hyphantornis cucullata*), and, strange to say, they are complete breeding nests, except that they are not lined, and not merely bachelor-shelters, as is usually the case with unmated birds. The other represents a nest of the Black-headed Weaver (*H .melanocephala*), who is also unmated, and has not been long in the aviary; this is the first nest he has built and is also a complete nest, except that it is not lined it promised to be a mere sphere at first, and the spout, unusual in form (squarish at the top) was added some days after the sphere was complete.

The Weavers enjoy a very mixed reputation, and some species as a whole certainly merit the character of pugnacity awarded them; and I must say that both from my own experience and hearsay evidence the Rufous-necked is unsafe in a mixed series of large and small finch-like birds, and amiable individuals are, I fear, the exception and not the rule. The Orange Weaver (*Pyromelana franciscana*) is another species of very mixed temperament, so is the Madagascar (*P. madagascariensis*), so is the Crimson-crowned (*P. flammiceps*), and the Grenadier (*P. oryx*); but with all these amiable individuals are of more frequent occurrence.

However, in an aviary devoted to weavers, though there is a more or less continuous uproar, most species can be included together; squabbling is more or less continuous, chattering and bad language incessant, but of serious combativeness little or none. They prefer to filch material for nest-building from other partly-finished nests to obtaining it from the orthodox source, and this alone causes endless clamour, but it all adds to the fun and interest of the aviary. An aviary either devoted to weavers, or one containing a few species of weavers and other birds, is certainly never deadly dull!

Weavers, as a group, live largely on seed and greenfood, but they certainly take and are very keen after all the live insect life the aviary provides, and there is certainly very little prospect of young weavers being successfully reared unless there is a good supply of living insects available while they are being fed in the nest—true, in a large wilderness aviary they will capture the bulk for themselves unless the aviary is over-crowded, but the aviarist should see that some live insects are supplied three or

Photo E. O. Page.

Nest of Black-headed Weaver.

four times daily, and see that those feeding young secure enough to be a meal for their babies on each occasion; if this be done they will supplement it with dry and fresh seed, greenfood, and fill in all other time with foraging for live-food themselves.

As I write I envy our late member his experience when he took those weavers' nests *in situ*, and it is most regrettable that his notes thereupon have been lost. On behalf of the F.B.C. I must again express my thanks to his mother, Mrs. Dawson-Smith, for kindly sending and allowing us to use the photos.

As a last word I would remark that in the breeding season an aviary of weavers is certainly very spectacular, and never lacks interest. The showy garments of their males, their fussiness, busyness, quaint and interesting deportment, and architectural skill all combine to supply a fund of interest that is never lacking, till the moult robs the males of their splendour, and they pass the resting period almost as plainly clad as their mates are all the year round, ere they, in the ordinary course of events, enter upon the arduous duties of another nesting season, and resume their splendid nuptial garb.

For the benefit of our tyro members I will give a brief table of the colouration of the nuptial plumage of the most frequently imported species:

RED-BILLED WEAVER.—Tawny-brown overlaid with a pinkish sheen, and black face mask.
NAPOLEON WEAVER.—Glistening black and sulphur-yellow.
TAHA WEAVER.—Similar colouration to preceding but differently arranged.
ORANGE WEAVER.—Glistening black and ruddy orange-yellow.
CRIMSON-CROWNED WEAVER.—Glistening black, crimson, and flame-colour.
GRENADIER WEAVER.—Crimson, fiery orange and shining black.
MADAGASCAR WEAVER.—Fiery scarlet, excepting the upper back and wings, which are dark and lighter brown washed with scarlet.
COMORO WEAVER.—Similar to the Madagascar, but has the underparts below the breast buffish-white.

The genus *Hyphantorius*, which includes Rufous-necked, Black-fronted, Masked, Half-masked, Black-headed, Speke's, Yellowish, etc., are all an arrangement of greens, yellows, black, and blackish browns; of course differently arranged in each species.

The Chestnut-backd Weaver is an arrangement of black, dark browns, and rufous-chestnut.

The above sketchy table may be of use to some of our members, and will demonstrate what a galaxy of colour a weaver aviary is in the breeding season.

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Editorial.

Arrival of a Consignment of Rare Birds at the London Zoo: Mr. W. J. C. Frost, who has been collecting birds and mammals for the Zoological Society of London among the Islands of the Malay Archipelago, arrived on August 27th with a goodly number of rare and interesting birds and mammals.

It is with the birds that we are chiefly concerned, and we regret we have not at present a complete list. Among others there are the following:

3 Greater Birds of Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*).
1 Lesser Bird of Paradise (*P. minor*).
2 Red Birds of Paradise (*P. rubra*).
1 Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise (*Selucides nigricans*).
2 King Birds of Paradise (*Cicinnurus regius*).
Pesquet's Parrot (*Dasyptilus pesqueti*), *vide* B.N. for Feb. 1920.
2 Black Lories (*Chalcopsittacus ater*).
2 Crimson-fronted Lories (*C. scintillatus*).
1 Amboina King Parrot (*Aprosmictus amboinensis*).*
4 Laughing Kingfishers (*Sauromarptes tyro*).*
2 Fairy Blue-Birds (*Irena turcosa*).
1 Lesser White Goshawk (*Astrr leucosomus*).*
3 Emilian Pheasant-tailed Pigeons (*Macropygia emiliana*).
2 Doreya Pheasant-tailed Pigeons (*M. doreya*).
2 Orange-bellied Fruit-Pigeons (*Ptilopus iozonus*).
2 Lavender-crowned Fruit-Pigeons (*P. coronulatus*).
3 Orange-fronted Fruit-Pigeons (*P. aurantiifrons*).*
4 Stephani's Green-winged Pigeons (*Chalcophaps stephani*).*
1 Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*).
2 Victoria Crowned-Pigeons (*Goura victoriae*).
4 Crowned-Pigeons (*G. coronata*).
2 Brown-billed Brush-Turkeys (*Talegallus fuscirostris*).*
3 Red-bellied Rails (*Eulabeornis castaneiventris*).*

* New to the collection.

Nesting Notes: We still desire to receive more of these; the importance of tabulating results season by season is demonstrated by Dr. Amsler's letter elsewhere in this issue he bred the Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria capitata*) in

1911 and failed to record it—we do not know of any published record of the breeding of this species other than that by Capt. Rattigan in our last issue, Dr. Amsler's prior success being unknown save to himself and one or two of his friends—we urge members to tabulate their breeding successes annually, even those of freely imported species.

Dr. Amsler has been very successful with Swainson's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*); he bred 8 (4 broods) in 1920, and has 6 reared (3 broods) to date this season. He finds them to breed all the year round, as successfully in the winter as in the summer. They are in an outdoor flight all the year round, with no other shelter than a box—presumably their nest-box.

He also has a couple of young King Parrakeets (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*) two months old, and we hope to publish an account of this success in a near issue.

Mr. T. Hebb has had no success this season with Blue Budgerigars, but has successfully bred Red Rosella Parrakeets, Swainson's Lorikeets, and Black-cheeked Lovebirds.

Mr. H. E. Bright had the following young flying in his aviaries, all independent of their parents, at the end of August.

8 Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*).
3 Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*), more in nest.
2 Silverbills (*Aidemosyne malabarica*).
2 Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca cyanea*), from two nests.
12 (or more) Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).
2 Green Cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
1 Virginian Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), two left the nest but one died.
6 Masked Doves (*Oena capensis*).
3 Australian Crested Doves (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
6 Geoffroy's Doves (*Peristera geoffroyi*).
2 Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*).
2 Cockateels (*Chalcopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).
2 (or more) Red-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus haematonotus*).

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Correspondence.

BREEDING YELLOW-BILLED CARDINALS IN 1911.

Sir,—I see that Capt. Rattigan is under the impression that the breeding of the Yellow-billed Cardinal entitles him to a medal.

I bred the species on two occasions in 1911, and Mr. Temple, who often visits my birds, clearly remembers the event.

At that time I was hoping to succeed with the much rarer Black-cheeked Cardinal, and I paid little attention to the Yellow-bills beyond providing a plentiful supply of insects. I did not know that the breeding of these birds was any rarer than that of the Grey (Red-crested), or Pope Cardinals, all of which have successfully nested with me.

I am sorry to have to disappoint Capt. Rattigan, although I, of course, do not put in a claim for the medal, as the breeding event is such old history, and was not reported at the time.

Eton, Windsor, August 25th, 1921. (Dr.) M. AMSLER.

THE DELICACY OF BLACK-CHEEKED WAXBILLS.

Sir,—In reply to the query regarding the hardiness of Black-cheeked Waxbills I may say that I have found them tougher than they look. It is true they love the sun, and often look very puffy sitting huddled up together with their heads under their wings—but it stops at that, and they don't actually die.

I bought eleven freshly imported ones and gave them their liberty, with access to an aviary shelter, of which they made free use at night.

Of the original eleven eight are still about, and I only found one dead of chill. They have improved considerably and now generally roost in the bushes, only coming to the aviary to feed. They are great eaters of spiders and insects, which seem to constitute quite half their food. In disposition they are tame and confiding and extremely amiable among themselves and also with other birds. I have never seen one attempt to peck or drive away a comrade.

Dufresne's and Fire finches, kept under the same conditions and making the same use of the shelter, nearly all died of chill, and hen Cordon Bleus proved less hardy than the Black-cheeks. The hardiest of all the waxbills, as regards the power to stand chilly nights when freshly imported, I have found to be the Violet-ear, but they are kittle cattle to winter indoors, and very subject to digestive troubles.

Havant, Hants. August 31st, 1921. (The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

THE DELICACY OF BLACK-CHEEKED WAXBILLS.

Sir,—I quite agree with what Capt. Reeve says about the appearance and behaviour of Black-cheeked Waxbills. I recently received four pairs from Mr. Hamlyn: they looked perfectly miserable unless they happened to get a ray of sun. These birds were in good feather and had been well cared for previous to coming to me, but they were all thin, and I concluded that something was wanting in their dietary. They much prefer Spray to Indian millet, and do not touch white millet or canary seed so far as I can judge, neither can they tackle mealworms.

Doubtless they would like green fly—my birds, however, devour *small*, clean gentles, and when given a dish of my own ground rice mixture they all crowd round the dish and feed on this for several minutes.

I am quite sure that their delicacy is due to the lack of some Vitamine, which, I hope, I am supplying by giving the last two named foods.

The birds are certainly looking much fitter and more contented since they have been so treated. They have only been in my possession for the past ten days—but there have been no casualties.

The ground rice mixture is made with boiling cow's milk (*not* condensed), ground rice, and a little " honey-sugar."

Eton: September 4th, 1921. (Dr.) M. AMSLER.

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR OF LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES.

Sir,—I should have written you before this thanking you for your letter and advice on the behaviour of my pair of Long-tails with young birds.

You will be pleased to hear that both are good birds; the one which the Bengalese had is the finer of the two and left the nest two days prior to the youngster the parent Long-tails reared.

The foster-parents had their baby ten days before it left the nest, and during this time they changed from their usual timid and nervous manners completely. Usually by putting my hand near their nest they would at once leave it, but when they had the young bird they would hide their heads in the hay and refuse to come out; I did not force them from the nest, and only once caught sight of the little Long-tail, though I repeatedly heard it being fed and knew it was therefore alive and well. Both youngster birds have left their respective nests about a week ago. The parent Long-tails did not interfere at all, and the Bengalese have now and again fed *both* the Long-tails, but the parents have been quite content to feed the bird they had, and made no attempt to satisfy the other with food.

I have every reason to think that both birds will now do well, even should the parent Long-tails not continue to feed their one, the Bengalese I am sure will be happy to provide meals for the two.

The Long-tails have made a nest (the fourth this year) in another box, and laid two eggs; I expect they will lay others and probably bring off another nest; if so, I hope they will repeat what they did last September, and present me with a brood of five and successfully rear them all themselves.

I might add that I am still wanting an exchange of Long-tails; I have a pair (from the same parents) of last year's birds, and there may be a pair in the two young I now have. I was *not* successful in getting " fresh blood " this season, and if any member could assist me now or later I should be glad.

New Malden, Surrey, September 1st, 1921. R. N. GIBBARD

The Prince Lucian's Conure.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The drawing, from which our plate is reproduced, is by a friend of Mr. L. Pullar's, and was intended to illustrate his *Notes on Some Conures* in August Bird Notes, pages 181-5, but it arrived too late for that purpose.

Mr. Pullar describes his birds as follows:

> " *Male*: Green; forehead red; top of head olive-green; cheeks, " neck, and upper breast grey, with lighter margins, giving a scalloped " appearance; centre of abdomen reddish-brown; primaries blue; tail light " olive-green; beak black; cere nnd bare skin round eyes white; feet black.
>
> " The hen is similar to the male, but has a much slimmer head."

The specimens in the British Museum are all from Peru and the Peruvian Amazons.

I regret in the time at my disposal that I am not able to discover anything as to its wild habits.

Of all the Conures, though I have not kept the species, the docility and quietude of all I have seen, designate it as the most silent and suitable for an indoor cage-bird.

I have not seen them in an outdoor aviary, but Mr. Pullar's photo (*vide* B.N. last issue, page 183) indicates that they would not be wanting in interest, neither would they be dull and lethargic—I must say the latter was my impression of the pair I saw in Mrs. Burgess' indoor enclosure with other species, but in fairness to them I must state that not only was my acquaintance with them a very short one, but the birds were new arrivals and not yet feeling at home.

Quite a few pairs have been distributed among various aviculturists—who will be the first to breed them and tell us more of their general habits?

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Photo by W. Shore Baily.

Young Grenadier Weaver leaving Nest.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Successful Nesting of Grenadier Weavers *(Pyromelana oryx).*

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

My Grenadier Weavers have had quite a successful season, having nested twice and fully reared four young birds.

This has been the first season this species has appeared in the Boyers House aviaries, and it is gratifying that their début has been so successful. As my readers know I have bred quite a few species of weavers, but for some reason or another I have never kept the Grenadier till this year.

Quite early in April I lost my first hen from egg-binding, so the start was not very auspicious; however, I was lucky in getting another from one of our members. Within a few days of her arrival she accepted the attentions of the male, and he promptly built her a rather neat nest in a spruce fir. In this the hen laid two blue eggs, larger but not so glossy as those of the Orange Weaver. These duly hatched out, after twelve days' incubation, and the young remained in the nest for sixteen days, a rather long period. Whilst feeding her young the hen got very tame, and would take mealworms from the table within a foot of me. These were supplied to her every few hours, and she carried them into the nest, sometimes two or three at a time.

The cock took no part in the rearing of his family, except to keep other birds away from his nest. He spent most of his time nest-building, and wove many nests, all of the same type, purse-shaped with the opening at the front in the upper half. I saw it stated in B.N. in an account of the breeding of this species that the cock enlarged the opening to allow of the egress of the young birds; but this was not so here, as the opening was amply big enough. In fact the nest remained quite perfect long after the young had left it.

A second nest was built in a laurel in September, and two more young ones were fully reared, so I now have a little flock of six, and shall have some difficulty in picking out the parent birds if I want to dispose of the young ones.

The Grenadier Weaver is a very handsome bird, but hardly so beautiful as the Crimson-crowned, which bird I believe has yet to be bred in an aviary in this country.*

The accompanying photo shows the young weaver just leaving the nest.

Nesting Notes for 1921

By Maurice Amsler, M.B.

The past season has been a disappointing one with me—partly because several of my birds had bad records from previous seasons, or because they were actually of species which do not frequently go to nest; also because the spring and summer have been so abnormally hot.

Although most of our foreign birds come from tropical or sub-tropical regions I have noticed that when acclimatised to our climate they seem to prefer a moderate temperature and a moderate rainfall; an exception to this was the summer of 1911, when I nearly reared young of the Golden-fronted Fruitsucker (*Philornis aurifrons*) on three successive occasions. I never again got beyond infertile eggs with this species, and I have always put down my previous success to the abnormal heat of that summer.

There is here a fair-sized shelter shed divided into four. Each one of these divisions has an outer flight about 20ft. long, these aviaries I have called 1, 2, 3 and 4. I have also three other smaller affairs varying from 10ft. to 18ft. long where I remove birds which look like breeding and which are either being interfered with or are themselves becoming aggressive to their companions.

No. 1 Aviary: This contained a mixture of waxbills and smaller soft-bills. Of these Silverbills (*Aidemosyne cantans*) reared a large number of young; on one occasion there were nine chicks in the nest of which only five were reared. I think two hens must have shared this nest. Blue-breasted Waxbills (*Estrilda angolensis*) hatched young, but did not rear, some bird having pulled the nest to bits.

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* The Crimson-crowned Weaver (*P. flammiceps*) fully reared two young birds in my aviary last season (1920); vide B.N. 1920, pp. 223-5.—Ed.

Golden-breasted (*Sporaeginthus subflavus*) and Avadavat (*S. amandava*) Waxbills did not nest.

A cock Blue-thrush, which I brought back from Italy, was so tame that he became a danger to anyone entering the aviary. Without any warning he would swoop down and peck one's face or head. One day he so nearly reached my eye that I caged him, which caused him to become extremely wild and savage, and, whether he pined for liberty or did a hunger-strike I do not know, but he quickly began to go down hill and died fairly soon—a mere skeleton. Softbills which are suffering from any chronic wasting disease frequently become very tame, partly I suppose from weakness and partly from an ever-present hunger. This particular bird, however, appeared to be in perfect health and feather until I caged him.

These are quite common cage birds in many parts of Italy, but being hand-reared few that I have seen had their beautiful natural song--they usually whistle some odd little tune picked up from their owner. The same applies to the Pied Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*), of which I bought a hen, as a supposed hen Blue Thrush. I soon discovered my mistake, and Mons. Jean Delacour has since given me a cock. The sexes of this pair are easily distinguishable, the cock being a good deal more heavily spotted, and of a deeper shade of orange below. I am looking forward to the vernal moult, when I hope he will develop the blue head and white patch on the back. That wonderful old aviculturist, Mr. Reginald Phillips bred this species in his back garden at Shepherd's Bush, but a man who can breed the Blue Wren and the Regent Bower-bird can do anything. Can anyone tell me whether the Pied Rock Thrush, which is a migratory bird, can be wintered out of doors?

As far as I can remember at the moment the only two other species in the aviary were a pair of Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*), 1920 birds from the same nest (these reared four young), and a pair of S. African Ground Thrushes (*Geocichla litsibsirupa*), hand-reared birds from last year, I believe. They are fine upstanding birds, marked much like our song thrush, but with a lighter ground-work and more decided spots; the tail is very much shorter than is the case with the true thrushes and ouzels, and the birds are seldom off the ground, except at night, when they prefer a board or the top of a box to a branch for roosting purposes. I have read somewhere that the African Ground Thrushes in general are poor songsters, but suspect that the present species must be an exception, as I have lately heard my male recording very nicely on several occasions. No attempt at nesting with these birds.

NO. 2 AVIARY: There were seven Diamond Doves with a preponderance, I think, of females. Many eggs were laid, sometimes four in one nest, and a fair number of young reared to leave the nest, but only one reached maturity. These, like many other species of doves, so often leave the nest too soon, or else are neglected by their parents just before they have reached independence. I know of no cure for the latter fault, which is due to the old birds' anxiety to go to nest again, but I have noticed that when a suitable site is chosen for the nest, such as an old blackbird's nest, or a shallow box, the young squabs stay there for a good fortnight and then leave the nest well grown and able to fly strongly, whereas when hatched in the typical flimsy nest built with a few straws and small twigs in a bush, they either tumble out or get pushed out, and spend a week or more on the ground, quite unable to rise. In the latter case it is well to put the young in a deep wooden box provided with a low perch. Here the parents will always feed them (if they wish to) and they stand less chance of being trodden on or of dying from exposure.

A pair of American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) came to me rather late in the season; the hen was given to me by Mr. Astley who had no mate for her, notwithstanding which she had built and laid when in his aviaries. I had great hopes that I should again rear the species which had done very well here in past years. On two separate occasions the hen got busy and nearly completed a nest in one day, but that was as far as she went. The cock did a little desultory singing right through the summer, but I never saw him feed his mate as did the male of my first pair.

They have both moulted now and are in beautiful condition. I suspect them, however, of having had a fair number of young Diamond Doves for breakfast.

A cock American Black-headed Siskin (*Chrysomitris tristis*) paired with a small Border Canary hen; two clutches of eggs were laid, but all were clear.

Sikhim Siskins, which came from the late Dr. Lovell Keays, two years ago have never attempted to nest. There is also a pair of Goldfinch × Sikhim Siskin hybrids bred this year by Mr. Shore Baily. One of these is now beginning to sing very nicely—in fact there is a good deal of rivalry in this respect with the American Siskin.

No. 3 Aviary was used as a receiving room for odd new birds. I bought six Crested Tits (*Parus cristatus*) in the early summer. Notwithstanding every care and plenty of insect food these have gradually died off until I have now only one left; they are charming birds and become delightfully tame, but are just as difficult to keep for any length of time as the Long-tailed Tit (*Acredula caudata*).

I have also a charming Blue-throated Warbler (*Cyanecula suecica*) in the same aviary, for whom I should much like a mate, but do not know the sex of my bird. I suspect that two birds of the same sex would fight to the death like robins or redstarts, both of which species this bird resembles.

Aviary No. 4 contained a pair of Orange-headed Ground Thrushes (*Geocichla citrina*), two Blue Tits, and a pair of Golden-shouldered Whydahs. The last named have been here two years and have done nothing, though the male's spring moult is striking and interesting.

The Blue Tits (*Parus caeruleus*) are, I think, two old males, both very handsome (what would these birds be worth if they were rare foreigners?), but although they have never quarrelled and have built in a Berlepsch log the last two seasons—no egg has been laid.

My Orange-headed Ground Thrushes (*Geocichla citrina*) have been my greatest disappointment.

In 1920 the hen was sold to me by our Editor, as a young male; she is one of the finest specimens I have ever seen. My old male soon began to feed her, and she took all she could get. The sole result was a few straws laid in the fork of an old elm-stump at the end of the summer.

This year the cock again began to feed the hen in the early spring, and on my return from abroad in April I found a large untidy nest composed of coarse hay, which had been built by the male. I had great hopes that the hen would "carry on," but she never carried a single straw, and has continued up to now, after the moult, to accept every meal-worm or other insect which the cock could find.

These are, in my opinion, amongst the most beautiful of the thrushes, and the male has a very sweet song. They have one fault, and this varies with different pairs, viz:—one or other bird bullies and chases its mate during the winter so that they frequently have to be separated and carefully watched when put together again in the spring.

My Swainson's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*) which have been here since 1916, have a small separate aviary and rear from three to five couples of young each year. They never stop nesting, in fact I have never had clear eggs in winter, whereas both this summer and last there has been one clutch which was infertile.

So far this season six young have been reared (two is the invariable clutch with me), and the birds are again sitting.

My last and perhaps the most interesting note concerns King Parrakeets (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*), a pair of which I bought in July 1920—they had attempted to nest with their previous owner, but for some reason the result was nil.

They wintered in an aviary with a pair of Yucatan Jays; in April I gave them a small wired-in flight to themselves and provided two very large nest boxes; these they never even looked at, but pairing took place in early May, and on 13th I noticed the hen digging a hole in the earth; on 18th, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 25th eggs were laid on the ground. These I collected together in a small hollow which I made myself in the soil surrounded by four bricks laid on edge and covered over by a piece of corrugated iron bent into a semi-circle. The hen sat steadily after the first few days, but owing to the nature of t nest the eggs rolled about and, I expect, became chilled a times. Anyhow, at the end of three weeks I removed six eggs, all of which were clear.

Ten days later the hen began to lay again; this time only four eggs were laid, one of which I removed because it was cracked. The remaining three I placed in a nest I had previously prepared—a hemispherical hollow cut in a thick piece of wood and buried flush with the ground; this was again covered as before with a piece of iron, and incubation proceeded steadily and ended on July 28th—twenty days—when three chicks hatched out; they thrived and grew rapidly, and when a week old I built a sort of wooden barricade, 6 inches high, around the nest, in order to prevent the young crawling out.

The parents did not appear to mind any of the numerous interferences, and I was able to have frequent peeps at the young; in their early stages they were even more hideous than most of their congeners, their colour being a dirty white with a covering of dark down. At the age of ten days the quills were well developed, and another ten days later the green colouration on the head and back was well developed. The three young left their nest on the 39th, 46th, and 47th day respectively from the time of hatching; the last to leave was a good deal smaller and less well developed than the other two, but has since grown rapidly and will soon be the equal of his brothers and parents. My observations have taught me that incubation is performed only by the female, who is carefully tended and fed by the male, and that both parents feed about equally. Large quantities of hemp and sunflower seed are consumed; millet and canary are not much relished at this time.

That it is almost impossible to provide enough green food in a dry summer such as we have had, and, finally, that these birds do not care for soaked bread when feeding young.

The five birds have been removed to No. 4 aviary, which has been cleared for them, and which they occupy together with a pair each of Yucatan and Azure Jays. The young King Parrakeets are now 10 weeks old, and I make them out to be two hens and one cock.

The last named has the red of the under parts more developed than his sisters or mother, and it appears to spread further up the back than in the adult female. The green on the back also more closely approaches the verditer hue which one sees in an old male.

The Yucatan Jays (*Cissolopha yucatanica*) already referred to have had a small aviary to themselves most of this year; they are a true pair but have made no attempt to nest.

I have lately bought a very fine pair of Azure Jays (*Cyanocorax caeruleus*); these also, I believe, are a true pair, but when placed in the same aviary with the Yucatans I was much perplexed and also amused to see a good deal of promiscuous love-making between the two different species. I notice it is the larger (Azure) Jay which usually feeds the Yucatan, but the present is invariably something which is not much appreciated, such as a maize seed or an acorn; tit-bits like mealworms, mice, etc., are swallowed and do not reappear.

I suppose others have observed a fact about Jays in general which I have already noted, and which at first lead one to mistake the sexes; I refer to the habit the hen has of swallowing all the insect food provided while the cock remains on his perch and makes a crooning noise. A few seconds later she flies up to him and disgorges the whole meal into his beak; if one ceased one's observations at this point one would assuredly be mistaken as to the sexes of the birds, but a minute or two later you will be rewarded for your patience by seeing the male return the food to the female, who usually perches below him and calls like a young bird.

There are only a few more birds to mention.

I have a number of Black-cheeked Waxbills (*Estrilda erythronota*) amongst which I have had a few casualties—fewer than is usually the case, I believe, thanks to their being caged up in a greenhouse where they get all the sun and heat possible; also to a generous diet of gentles; apart from their seed they consume quite a large quantity of ground rice made with boiling milk.

There is also a hen Rose-headed Parrakeet (*P. rosa*); this is a rare species, and I have obtained for her a mate of the closely allied Blossom-headed Parrakeet, from which I hope to breed next year. They appear to be very inoffensive birds, and

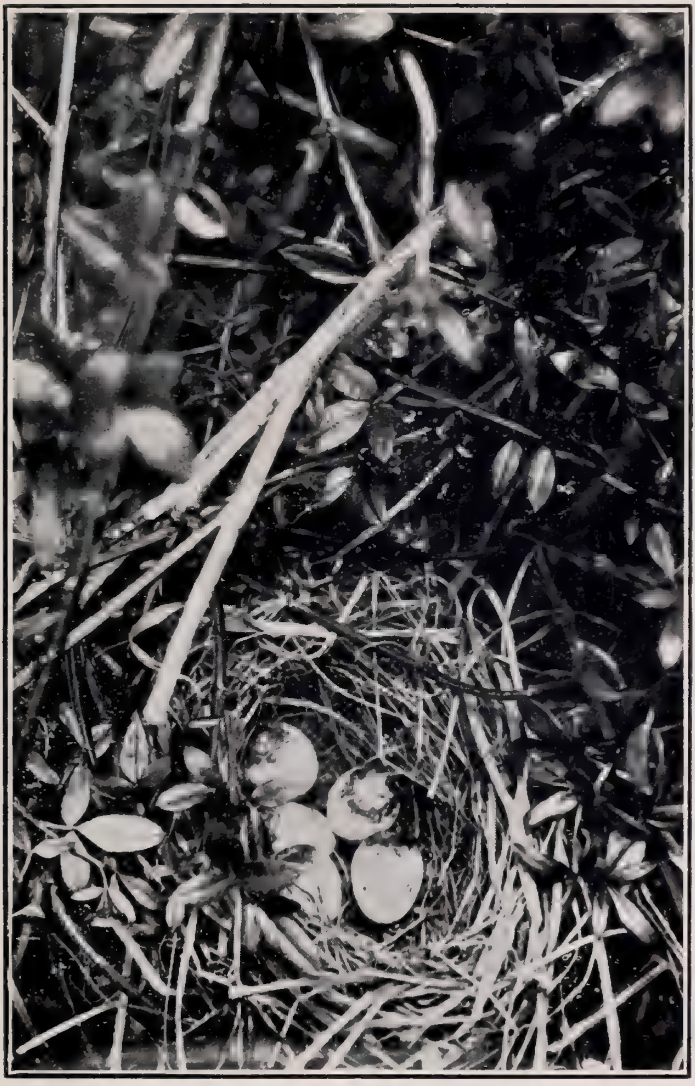

Photo by W. Shore Baily

Nest and Eggs of Yellow Seed-Finch.

apparently safe to mix with the smaller fry, but one never knows what may happen when the breeding season arrives.

A delightfully tame Senegal Parrot, who is a woman-hater, and a cage containing a Blue and a few Blue-bred Budgerigars share my sitting room with me and complete the list of birds now in my possession.

◆

The Nesting of the Yellow Seed-finch.

By W. Shore Baily.

The season 1921 has been, on the whole, quite an interesting one in my aviaries, for although I have been unable to record many successes I have had several attempts with species new to the aviaries, and in some cases new to aviculture. Among these failures the nesting of the Yellow Seed-finch (*Sycalis lutea*) is perhaps the most interesting.

My pair of birds came to me from a private importer last autumn, and at first I had some difficulty in identifying them; even now I cannot be absolutely certain that my identification is accurate.

The following is a description given in Hudson's *Argentine Ornithology* of the Yellow Seed-finch:

> " *Male*: General body colour dark yellow, rump and body below " brighter; wings and tail brownish-black edged with yellow; under wing-" coverts pale yellow; inner margins of wing-feathers pale brown. Whole " length 5.5 inches, wing 3.2, tail 2.1.
>
> " *Female*: Similar, but duller and more brownish."
>
> " Habitat: Andes of Peru, Bolivia and Argentina."

This description fits my birds very closely but omits one very important distinction. All my birds have a pale buffish-white eyelash, which makes them look as if they were wearing spectacles. I cannot conceive how anyone, having seen these birds in the flesh, could fail to notice this, as this marking is almost as prominent as in the little White-eyed Zosterops.

Other South American Finches to which my birds might be referred, are the Misto Seed-finch (*Sycalis luteola*) and the Meadow Seed-finch (*Oreospiza pratensis*), but neither of these little birds are said to have the yellow under wing-coverts, and these feathers are the most bright of any in the Yellow Seed-finch.

I turned my first pair of these birds into an outdoor aviary early in April, and they promptly went to nest in the centre of a dense box bush. The nest, which was a rather deep cup, was built of fine grasses and was unlined. Five pretty eggs, white with a rather wide zone of reddish-purple spots and blotches, were laid; but, as the weather at the time was bitterly cold, with keen easterly winds, I decided not to let her incubate, and removed the eggs. These I sent to a friend, a keen oologist, who was very glad to receive them, and reckoned them a great prize, as the eggs apparently have not been previously described.

A few weeks later she again went to nest in the same bush, and, after an incubation period of eleven days, five young were hatched. The weather was very fine at the time, and had every hope that they would be successfully reared, as the hen was very active catching flies and other small insects, but to my disgust, on examining the nest three days later, I found it empty.

Once more she went to nest on the same site. This time I removed two of the eggs, placing one in a Hedge Sparrow's nest, and the other in the nest of a Golden-breasted Bunting. The Hedge Sparrows promptly ejected their egg, as another pair had done on previous occasions with Diuca Finches' eggs; I don't know why, as this species apparently suffers gladly the intrusion of her egg by the Cuckoo, and many of the latter bird's eggs would be indistinguishable from those of the Diuca Finch.

The egg in the Bunting's nest duly hatched, and the little bird lived for nearly a week, although it never made any growth. The Bunting was a very good mother and came to me for meal-worms, but apparently they were not just what the young one required. Probably very small insects would be the right food at this stage, or possibly live ants' eggs. In the meantime the eggs in the seed-finch's nest had disappeared. I rather suspected fieldmice.

About a month later the hen again went to nest (for the fourth time) on this occasion in the centre of a thick clump of grass, about an inch off the ground. This time only two eggs were laid, and these hatched out in due course, only to disappear later in the day. I think that next year I shall have to try them in an aviary with no other occupants.

"If Only to say How the Beastly Thing Died."

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

Many years ago an experienced aviculturist tried to inspire members of the F.B.C., if I remember rightly, with the desire to find out everything possible with regard to the treatment in confinement of that beautiful, but rather disappointing bird, the Gouldian Finch. And he urged everyone to write and give his experience of the species, " if only to say how the beastly thing died." I have forgotten the correspondence which followed as to the management of Gouldians, but the phrase, " if only to say how the beastly thing died," remains hauntingly in my memory.

How often do we start with high hopes of breeding some rare bird—perhaps for the first time—and in the end, alas! all we have to relate is the way in which the beastly thing died! Sometimes the account is never written; one's avicultural triumphs are so much pleasanter to record than one's failures, and nobody likes to advertise his incompetence even if it be in the matter of keeping a bird and getting it to rear its young! Still, one learns much by one's own failures, and sometimes one learns from the failures of other people, so it is perhaps fair to them to record one's disappointments, and the manner in which they came about.

I have for many years past kept Yellow-bellied Parrakeets (*Platycercus flaviventris*), and always with ill success. This handsome Tasmanian broadtail looks as though he would be easy to keep and breed—as easy as a Rosella, for he is neither difficult to feed, nor sensitive to cold—but as a matter of fact he is an awkward proposition, a very awkward proposition indeed. My first Yellow-bellies I lost from accident or bad management in the days when I was a beginner at parrakeet keeping. The one which survived longest was a cock I had at liberty; he paired with an Adelaide Parrakeet, and the story of his scandalous domestic life and his ultimate production of a hybrid offspring I never saw has been told elsewhere.

During the war I received about half a dozen new Yellow-bellies in very nice condition, which were turned into an outdoor aviary in the Isle of Wight; they immediately proceeded to begin to die of a form of septicæmia, which makes it impossible for me to keep either Many-colours or Blue-bonnets for any length of time in that place. To save the remnant (two cocks and a hen) I sent them to a friend in Gloucestershire. There they lived for two or three years, but did not nest. On one occasion, when I was paying my friend a visit, we were just going out of the aviary, when the hen Yellow-belly, who was tame and cunning, shot out over his head and vanished from sight. A little searching revealed her in a garden further down the road, but she was far too pleased with her liberty to come when called, so we had to leave her out in imminent risk of being eaten by cats. For the next few days she flew about Cheltenham, but growing hungry she finally entered a house and was safely captured and returned by a person who had seen our advertisement in the local paper. Not long afterwards her mate died of tuberculosis, and she and the other cock were sent to my house in Hampshire.

When spring came I gave the pair their liberty, much to the disgust of an old Yellow-mantle who tyrannized over all the parrakeets in the garden, and particularly hated his own relations. The Yellow-bellies stayed fairly well, and the hen would follow me about the garden, but she was so tame that she was in danger of being injured when she paid visits to neighbouring houses, and she was inclined to be very spiteful with little children, so I was regretfully compelled to return her and her mate to the aviary. Not long afterwards the male began to look ill, and as I could not diagnose his complaint, which did not seem to be chill, I gave him his liberty. He soon recovered, but disappeared suddenly some weeks later. Months afterwards a portion of his skull was picked up in the garden, but whether he died or met with an accident I cannot tell.

The following summer (1920) the hen, though unmated, began to show unmistakable signs of being in breeding condition, and I was not surprised when she laid four eggs. We removed them and gave her, instead, he eggs of a Crimson-wing that would not sit. She incubated them for three weeks and then left them, as they were clear.

That autumn I obtained two more cocks. One, which was kept in a cage in the Isle of Wight, fell a victim to the old enemy—septicæmia (not the well-known spotted fever type, but another form, less contagious, but ultimately quite as deadly). The other male I put in the aviary with the hen. The first thing he did was to fall in love with a young hen Rosella at liberty, whom he assiduously fed through the wire-netting. He also began to make himself very disagreeable to the hen Yellow-belly. I removed the charmer, and he promptly fell in love with her mother, who at that time was unmated, and he treated his proper bride even worse. I then obtained a cock Rosella who soon made it plain to the Yellow-belly that his suit was unlikely to meet with success, so between us we persuaded him first to tolerate and later to take an interest in the lady of his own species. When spring came things began to look very hopeful; the cock Yellow-belly began to feed the hen, and later they were seen pairing. A nest seemed certain, but whether it was the very hot, dry weather, or something else which upset them, I cannot say, but the eggs never came, and the hen dropped into moult. In a week or two she was moulting heavily, and the cock had likewise begun; then I began to notice that she seemed less active than usual and not so keen on her mealworms, a few mealworms, daily, being an important and perhaps a necessary part of the diet of these birds, according to my experience. Her eyes, however, looked bright, and she was not puffy and did not sit with her head under her wing, so I concluded that it was no more than the ordinary strain of the moult. However, some days later she seemed so weak that I gave orders for her to be caught up and caged; the same evening I returned to find her corpse on the hall table: the gardener told me he had caught her without the least fuss or trouble, but a few moments after being put in the cage she had just collapsed and died. Post mortem revealed congestion of the internal organs.

For a time the cock bird seemed to go on all right; then I noticed that he, too, was losing his appetite and going the same way as the hen. Two alternative modes of treatment occurred to me—to cage him up and try medicine and dieting, or to turn him out in a large enclosure of wire-netting, taking in about a quarter of an acre of fruit bushes. I decided on the latter course; catching him was a very simple business, as he was alarmingly weak, and as I contemplated him in his new home I felt I had probably done the wrong thing after all, for such a weak bird was not likely to respond to a "nature cure." However, it *was* the right plan after all; unlimited green food, of which he had always been an enormous eater, and especially some American blackberries, tempted his flagging appetite, and a few days later he began to eat his seed again. Very slowly his strength came back, and he is now quite himself again, and I saw him this morning exchanging personal abuse with a pair of Browns with his old health and energy restored.

Some day perhaps an English aviculturist will have better luck than I and breed Yellow-bellies for the first time in this country. But let him bear well in mind that he has *not* got an ordinary Rosella to deal with, but a bird that will take all his care and skill to keep in health; if he does so he may be spared the melancholy task of writing an article "only to say how the beastly thing died."

Breeding Blue Budgerigars from Blue-bred Greens.

By Lt.-Col. H. Legh de Legh.

Possibly these notes may be of sufficient interest to our members, especially to those who are endeavouring to breed Blue Budgerigars.

Not for a moment do I claim that any success I have had is due to scientific mating, or that breeding the Blues was anything but a lucky accident, as you will agree at the conclusion of my tale; it was rather the reverse of well-earned reward, but it is possible that others may be encouraged thereby.

Nor am I able to vouch for all details, but the facts are approximately correct.

Early in 1919 I was given three pairs of Blue-bred Green Budgerigars; I believe these came originally from Mrs. Burgess;

they may, however, have been young birds bred from them.

During 1919 they bred freely, and I kept some youngsters the others being sold as ordinary greens.

In the spring of 1920 I mated up eight pairs—the original three and five young birds—with five privately imported pure Green cocks.

During the season I was impressed by the fact that all the young birds resulting from the above showed marked blue in their nest feathers, and after the first moult many kept a distinctly bluish breast and blue tails. I then began to think that I had at least considerable blue blood in the stock, though, of course, I was not able to apportion mathematically the amount in the individual birds.

I considered whether I should try and purchase one or two pure Blues, but did not do so.

I wrote, however, to our member Capt. W. A. Bainbridge for advice, and he most kindly answered my letters very fully and gave me valuable information. He advised me to get rid of the five imported Green cocks so as to leave myself with stock which showed definite blue or had some blue blood in them. He also exchanged with me three young blue-bred cocks for three of mine. I gather that his blue-bred birds were produced by stock purchased from Mr. Marsden and included Blues.

We now come to 1921, and the aviary contained:—

One surviving pair of Mrs. Burgess's Blue-breds;
Three pairs of my own young hens, mated to the
Three young cocks from Capt. Bainbridge;
Four pairs of my own young stock.

Youngsters began to fly in March, and all showed distinct blue, but I never anticipated any of the real article, and for all practical purposes merely regarded them as Greens; nor did I trouble to look in the nests regularly.

On Whit-Saturday (May 14th) I went to the aviary, and preening themselves in the morning sun, were two perfect young Blues; from the same nest came a very light, almost white, yellow, and another bird of the colour I was accustomed to.

I must own I was very pleased, but still did not think there was much in it.

On July 29th another pair of Blues flew, and I was able to be sure that these came from another husk.

In neither case can I identify the parents, and was so afraid of catching up any on mere speculation that I continued to maintain an attitude of masterly inactivity!

You may be sure that with two warnings of this nature I am now watching the nests carefully; I have young birds in four husks at present, and in one I think I have two more ceruleans, but they are too young for me to be sure, in view of the fact that all my youngsters are so blue in their nest feathers.*

I would give a good deal to be able to catch up the parents which are producing Blues, but the aviary is large (24 x 11) ,and with eight pairs it seems almost impossible to be sure.

My present four Blues are two cocks and two hens, beautiful birds, large and in perfect feather. The May birds are through the first moult and are now of still richer blue.

I propose to leave the present occupants of the aviary as they are.

Will any member kindly advise me what course I should pursue next spring with my four birds?

Two plans seem open: to mate the blues together, in which case, I am told, the resulting young would, if blue, be very pale, and then to mate the latter back to blue-bred greens with a good chance of getting satisfactory blues.

The other would be to mate the blues with some of my blue bred green birds of this year which show most blue.

I am painfully aware that to experts like Mr. Marsden and others this account may cause smiles, but, I hope, indulgent ones.

I have read all I can in BIRD NOTES on the subject for years back, and when I notice wonderful fractions of blue blood given in the matings to produce the best results I realise very fully that my efforts have been of the order of the wet-fly fisherman—" chuck it and chance it!"

The facts remain, however, that the blues are here; the whole stock throws definitely " bluish " birds, and that I never possessed a " blue " before.

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* A later note informs us that the two young birds have left the husk, and that they are pure Blues, making six young Blues in one season from his blue-bred Greens.—ED.

A Clever Starling.

By W. Shore Baily.

This summer Messrs. De Von imported from South America, together with some Military Starlings (*Trupialis defilippi*) a consignment of Red-headed Marsh Birds (*Amblyrhamphus holosericeus*). A few odd birds have from time to

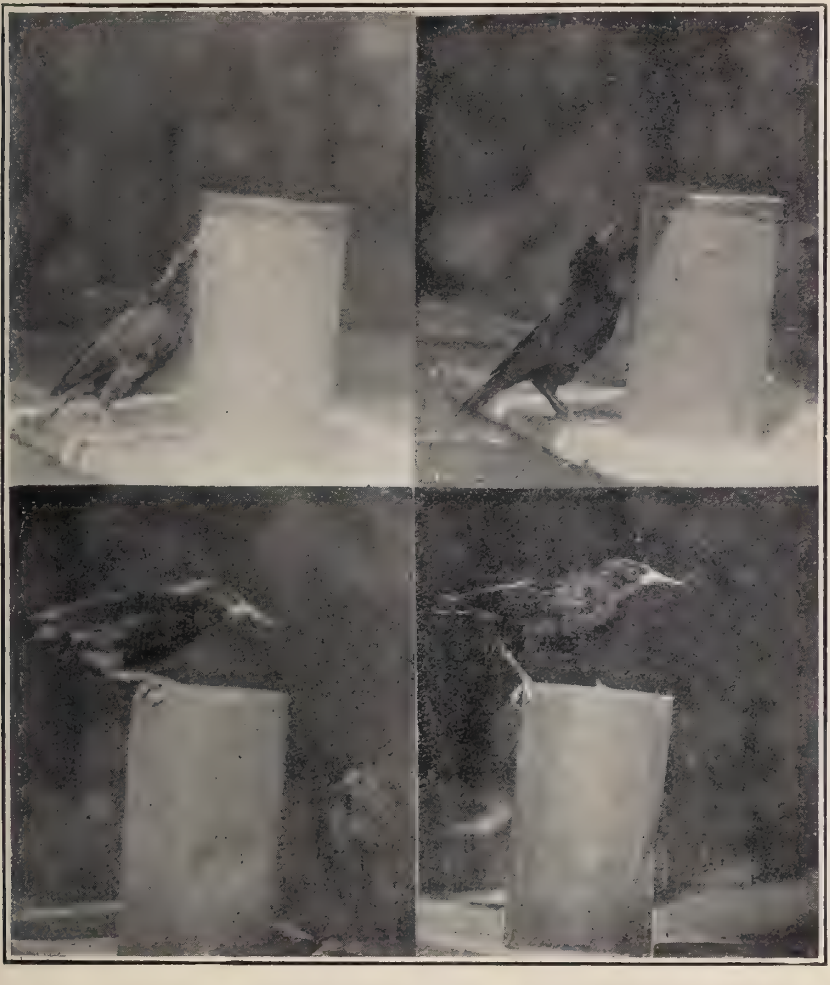


photo W. Shore Baily.

A Clever Starling and the Mealworm Box.

time come over, but, I believe, this is the first consignment of any size to reach this country for many years.

In full colour they are striking looking birds, having the head, neck, and thighs a brilliant scarlet, and the remainder of the body glossy black. The young birds are at first entirely black.

Having two or three aviaries with marshy ponds and growing rushes, I bought three pairs with a view to attempting to breed them next season.

The two adult birds did not live long, but the four young ones, which are in various stages of change of colour, have done very well.

Amongst them is one particularly intelligent bird. I found this out first by discovering the mealworm tin one day without a cover, and most of its occupants gone. I thought that this must have been due to my carelessness, so I replaced the cover. The next morning the tin was again open, and its contents gone, so I refilled it and waited to see what happened. I had barely left the aviary before one of the Starlings was down on the table and hammering away at the cover of the tin with its wedge-shaped bill. Seven or eight sharp blows and off flew the cover when the bird promptly flew up and helped himself to all the mealworms within reach, and, as these unsuspecting creatures, the moment the cover is off, try to crawl out, he had only to wait for them to crawl up to get a crop full.

I must say that the cover of the tin fits on quite tightly.

Thinking to outwit the clever bird I turned the cover side down on the table, and left the tin inverted. To my astonishment, the next morning the tin was on its side and again empty. I found that the bird managed this by inserting its wedge-shaped bill under the tin and then opening the mandibles wide ; this had the effect of levering the tin over on its side, when he would promptly knock the cover off and help himself and his friends. The tapping of the beak on the tin is now the signal for the other birds in the aviary to assemble to the feast.

Female Pheasant Donning Partial Male Plumage.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

In a former article, on my Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus torquatus*), I mentioned that my fellow member Capt. J. S. Reeves kindly sent me four hens from his coverts as mates for some males I had. Three of these were mated to males of their own species, viz: impure *P. torquatus*, the other one was given to a bachelor Gold Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*), which was bred by the late Dr. Lovell-Keays. It is of the latter *torquatus* female I think a few notes will be of interest.

She settled down almost at once with her gorgeous mate; last year quite a number of eggs were laid, but she neither made a nest nor showed any desire to incubate. Of these some couple of dozen were put under bantam hens, but all the eggs were infertile—I should say the previous year quite a few Golden Pheasants were reared under silky hens, of which the same cock was the father. This year only one egg was picked up (rats have access to this run and may have taken some eggs, but they had not done so in former years), and the hen made no nest, neither did she become broody. About six weeks ago she went into heavy moult—a fortnight ago (now October 18th) Mr. Williams was spending the week end with me, and we noticed that this hen was coming very dark about the head and neck; we suspected she was going to put on male plumage, but the moult was not anything like complete, and at a stage in which no definite opinion could be formed. The moult is now complete and proves our surmise to have been correct. I should say the hen was about four years old.

Her head and neck plumage is perfect male *torquatus*, even to the inclusion of a partial white neck ring, but lacks the scarlet skin round the eyes. Her body, wings and tail are all more or less variegated (mottled) with the male plumage, the tail being about intermediate in length between those of normal male and female. I am quite aware that many similar cases have previously occurred, but usually these have been attributed to old age, but this cannot apply to my hen, as I should not call a hen pheasant aged at four years. It should be noted, however, that all her eggs which were tested in 1920 were infertile, and that this year she has laid but few, possibly only one, which certainly rather points to some lack of vigour.

Editorial.

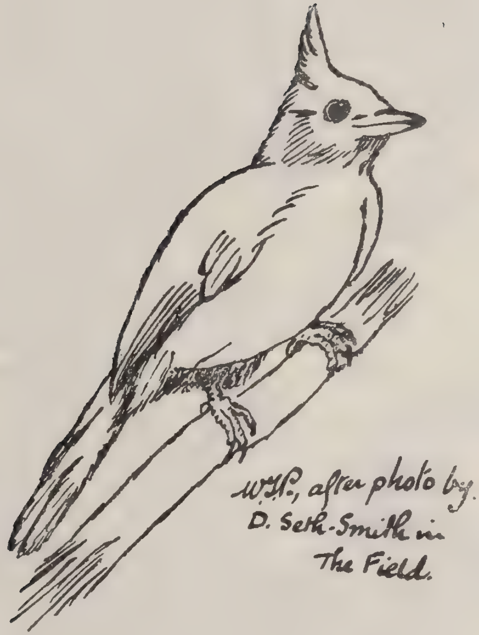
A NEW BULBUL AT THE LONDON ZOO: In *The Field* for October 1st Mr. Seth Smith describes a new bulbul from Yunnan, illustrating his notes thereupon by a photograph of the bird. From this we have made a rough sketch (figured herewith) with our apologies and thanks to the editors and photographer. The photo-reproduction, but for the absence of the face-mask, might at first sight be mistaken for a Virginian Cardinal, and it is apparently a bird of somewhat similar form. It has been presented to the Zoological Society by Mr. J. D. La Touche on his return from Yunnan. As we have not seen the bird we are making an extract from Mr. Seth-Smith's note in *The Field*.

> "The Finch-billed Bulbul (*Spizixus canifrons*) belongs to a genus containing only three species, which are remarkable on account of the short, finch-like bill, which is totally unlike that of the other bulbuls. . . . It is about 8½in. in length; the prevailing colour being greenish, the forehead ashy-grey, the lores and hinder part of the crown black, and the underparts yellowish. The head is furnished with a thick, upstanding crest."

This rare bird is not only new to the Zoo collection, but is, we believe, the first living specimen to reach this country.

Another rarity, presented by the same donor, is the White-winged Mynah (*Spodiopsar memoricolus*), it is somewhat similar to the Malabar Mynah (*S. malabarica*), but differs therefrom in its paler colouration and prominent white wing patch. Apparently the first living specimen to reach this country.

KING PENGUIN (*Aptenotydes pennanti*): Most of us are acquainted with this fine species by our visits to the Zoo. Few of our members have kept Penguins, but our president has kept the common Black footed Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) and her birds were described in an illustrated article in an early vol. of BIRD NOTES. This species has been bred on several occasions at the London Zoo. The King Penguin has been exhibited there more than once, but the pleasing photos illustrating this note were taken by the late Lt. F. Dawson Smith at the Edinburgh Zoo, where, we believe, young have been successfully reared. The King Penguin is a larger and finer bird than *S. demersus*, has a longer bill and orange-yellow chest. It



W.T.P., after photo by D. Seth-Smith in The Field.

King Penguins at Edinburgh Zoo.

photo F. Dawson-Smith.

inhabits the Falkland group of islands. In the *Cambridge Naturalist History* the following notes of their habits appear:

> "The crowded breeding grounds are flat spaces of hard soil covered with slime, and are often quite apart from the general quarters. When disturbed the birds utter a loud 'urr-urr-urr,' and run to the sea at a great pace, maintaining an upright position; while they pass to and from the water in singly, and not in flocks, as do other species."

Interesting and quaint birds—quite nice out-of-the-way pets for anyone able to give them proper accommodation.

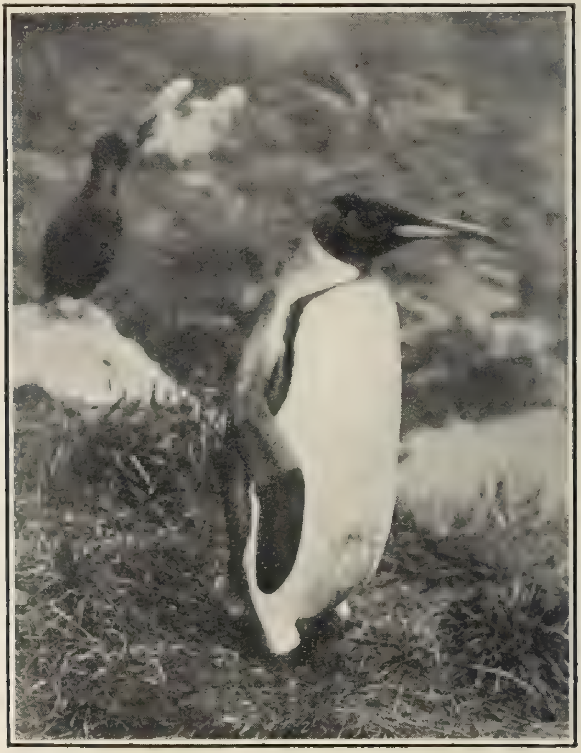


photo F. Dawson-Smith

King Penguin.

Possibly one of our Scottish members could give us an account of the attempted, or successful, nesting of *A. pennanti* at the Edinburgh Zoo.

Correspondence.

BREEDING BARNARD'S PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—In answer to your query as to the breeding of Barnard's Parrakeets, I bred the species very successfully at liberty before the war, and an account has already been published. For some years past I have had a pair in an outdoor aviary, which produce from two to four young annually, but only on one occasion have nested twice the same season. They receive the same treatment as Rosellas, and I consider the species quite as hardy and easily managed as *P. eximius*.

Barnard's are certainly a little less murderously quarrelsome than other *Platycerci*, when breeding, but no broadtail is amiable at such times. In spite of its beauty Barnard's Parrakeet does not seem to command a ready sale, and I have difficulty in disposing of my young birds at even a low figure.

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

MOTH LARVAE AS A FOOD.

Sir,—I have been experimenting for some time past with breeding a small meal moth in the hope of producing a new form of live food for delicate insectivorous birds. The little fat white caterpillar, about half the size of a full-grown gentle, is an ideal substitute for the less palatable and digestible mealworm. I have succeeded in breeding three moths nearly all the year round in reasonably large numbers, and find that they thrive under the same treatment as mealworms. I keep them in a good sized barrel, with alternate layers of bran and sacking, the top layer of sacking being kept moist with sweetened beer. A certain number of moths are lost when the top is taken off the barrel, but they are sluggish flyers and prefer to run away and hide when suddenly disturbed. The caterpillars spin themselves little cases of bran on the sacking and on the sides of the barrel and are quite easy to collect with a little patience. If any members of the F.B.C. would care to develop the experiment I should be pleased to send a limited number of larvae at 2d. a dozen plus postage. I may add that the moths should be kept at a warm, even temperature summer and winter, between 60 and 80 degrees.

(The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

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Reviews and Notices of New Books.

A Practical Handbook of British Birds: By various authors, edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., with numerous half-tone and coloured illustrations. In 18 parts, price 4s. 6d. per part net. London: Witherby & Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Part XII. This part is wholly occupied with a continuation of the ANATIDÆ, and is fully up to the standard of preceding parts. Genera *Tadorna*, *Casarca*, *Anas*, *Spatula*, *Netta*, *Nyroca, Bucephala, Clangula, Histrionicus* are comprehensively dealt with and *Polysticta* is commenced. It contains a beautiful coloured plate figuring the Wing-coverts and Specular of nine species of ducks, also numerous figures in the text.

Post Mortem Reports.

COCKATEEL: Capt. Rattigan.—This bird died of enteritis of the haemorrhagic type. It is quite likely that the cause lay in the bundle of weeds put into the aviary. Several plants of the ragwort family contain a poison in their leaves fatal to mammals and birds.

DUFRESNE'S WAXBILL: Capt. Rattigan.—Cause of death a ruptured liver. Possibly pursued by another bird it dashed against the wire and ruptured its liver.

GOLDEN PHEASANT: Capt. Rattigan.—Cause of death in this case bronchitis. Possibly it was a bird which, being hatched at the time when the drought was at its worst, was always weakly.

CRIMSON-WINGED PARRAKEET: The Marquis of Tavistock.—Cause of death enteritis. The association of a fit with this is by no means unusual. In babies intestinal disorders are among the commonest causes of convulsions.

BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET: The Marquis of Tavistock.—Cause of death enteritis.

DUFRESNE'S WAXBILL: Mr. S. Yealland.—Cause of death pneumonia. This can be such an acute disease that the bird may have every appearance of health, even a short time before death.

TWO TANAGERS: Capt. Reeve.—Both these birds died of mycosis of lungs and air-sacs. This is an infectious disease, but one which robust birds seem able to overcome, while weakly, newly imported birds succumb to it. The disease is caused by a fungus which spreads by spores. If the aviary is now empty disinfect it before placing anything more in it. If it is not, disinfection is not much use as the birds now in it may have become carriers. In this case do not put in fresh birds unless they are in robust health.

DUNLIN: M. R. Tomlinson.—This bird died of mycosis. It probably had the disease all the time, and becoming run down died of it. For further details see above.

CORDON BLEU: Mrs. Calvocoressi.—The cause of death was enteritis.

ORANGE-FLANKED PARRAKEET: Mrs. Sproston.—The cause of death was enteritis.

THREE BIRDS: J. Weir.—The birds were all decomposed. I fear analysis of bird foods is somewhat too involved a subject to be undertaken at present, in view of the lack of knowledge of the normal contents of bird foods.

N. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist.

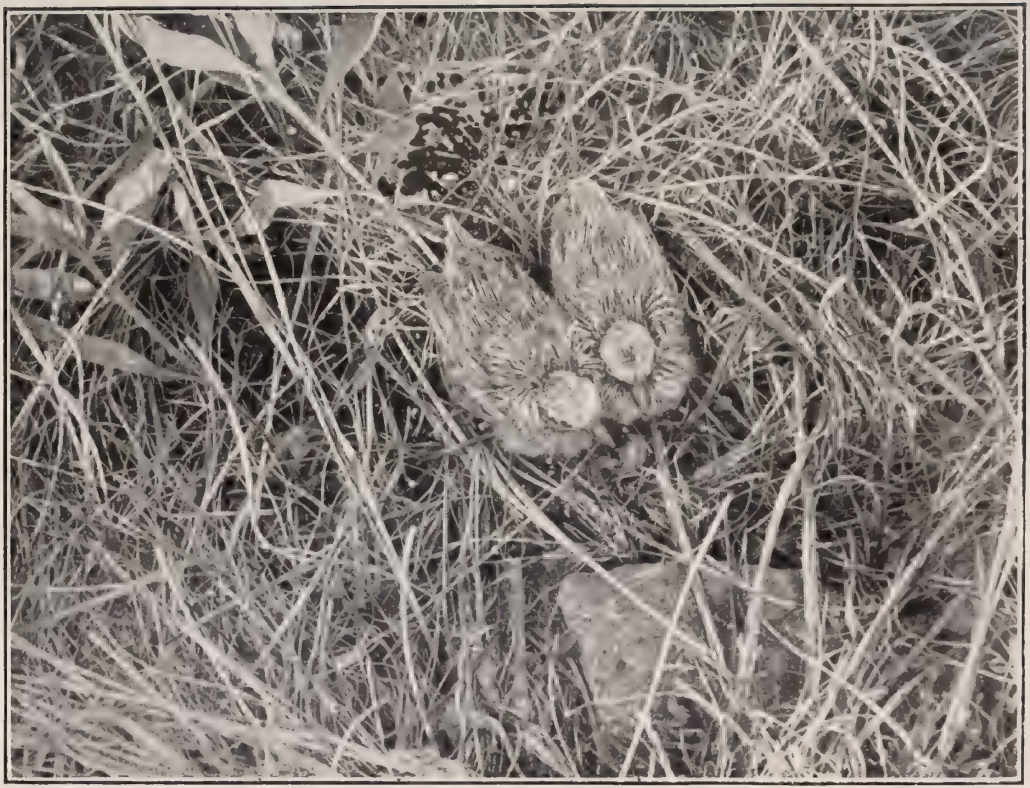

Photo Keystone View Co.

Young Mourning Doves Ten Days Old.

(A.P.P.)

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Mourning Dove *(Zenaidura macroura).*

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

As the notes, mainly a compilation, are written to go with the photo-reproductions opposite, I am reprinting almost *in extenso* from *The Condor* (Sept.-Oct. 1921) an interesting article by Margaret Morse Nice, which describes their nidification habits in a state of nature, and our illustrations also figure the eggs and young in their native wilds.

"This spring we have had the rare experience of following the "course of two Mourning Doves' nests, each of which contained three "eggs, and all the eggs hatching. Although we have examined nearly "150 nests of the Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) here in central Oklahoma, in only one instance have we found more "than two eggs or young. This was a nest containing two small doves "and one egg, discovered by my daughter Constance, May 25, 1917. "Unfortunately we did not revisit this nest."

"The first of the three-egg sets found in 1921 was located in a new "Robin's nest that had been built in a box elder fifteen feet from the "ground. It was found April 15 with three Robin's eggs in it, but on "April 20 it was empty and deserted. On April 30 we saw a Dove "placidly in possession, and on Constance climbing the tree she made the "exciting discovery that the nest contained three Dove's eggs, one of "which looked slightly smaller than the others. On May 12 there were "still three eggs; but on May 14 there was one egg and two young, one a "day old and the other a few hours old; this last was under the egg. On "May 18 there were three little birds in the nest; the smallest, from its "degree of development, must have been one day younger than the middle "bird.

"On May 19 the six-day-old dove weighed 41 grams, the five-day-old "21.8 grams, and the four-day-old 17 grams. The weights of the two "young birds are lower than others of the same age, the average of two "other five-day-old squabs being 36 grams, and of two four-day-olds 30.5 "grams. Apparently the three were not getting quite enough food. All "however were well advanced as to feather development. On May 21 "Dr. J. M. Thuringer ascended the tree and photographed the birds in "their nest. After this we did not disturb them for fear of frightening "them out prematurely. They left the nest at an average age for Oaklahama "Mourning Doves, the oldest when 13 days old, and the others the "following day when 12 and 13 days old."

"The second nest was situated in the crotch of an elm ten feet from "the ground; it was fairly big, being largely built of twigs. On May 3 "there were two eggs in it. It was not examined again until May 9 "when it was found to contain three eggs, one of which looked slightly "yellowish. The first bird hatched May 16, the second May 17, and the "third not until May 22. Therefore the nestmates of the latter had a "great start, one being six days old and weighing 40.3 grams, and the "other five days old and weighing 37.8 grams, while the poor infant "weighed only 4.4 grams. The next day it had hardly gained at all, "weighing only 4.8 grams, and the day after it was dead; it had been too "tiny to compete with the big squabs. These latter birds left the nest "when 12 and 13 days old."

"At least 35 sets of three eggs of Mourning Doves have been "reported, but, as far as I can learn, only four instances of three young "in one nest. In only one of these is the comparative size of the young "mentioned. They were 'all of one size' (Wharram). In our two cases "the only one that was entirely successful was placed in a robin's nest, "and the birds hatched within a day of each other; while in the other the "third bird that hatched five or six days after its nest mates lived only two "days. These experiences suggest two possible reasons why three squabs "in a nest are such unusual occurrences. First, the ordinary dove nest "is too frail to hold three birds to maturity, and secondly, the third bird may "hatch so late that it is soon eliminated."

Two photo reproductions illustrate the above interesting article, but I have not reprinted these, as I had not the permission of the photographer to do so, and one requires the actual photo to get an effective reproduction. In the course of my avicultural experience I have bred many foreign doves (in captivity) of various species, including some of nearly allied species, but I have never had a case in which the clutch has exceeded two eggs. In a few cases where one egg has been broken the egg has been replaced some days later, but in not a single instance has the heavily handicapped late comer lived more tnan a couple of days.

The "Robin's Nest," mentioned in Mrs. Nice's article is, I assume, that of *Turdus migratorius.*

In the same issue of *The Condor* there is an interesting paragraph under Field and Study *Doves of Imperial County, California*, which has a reference to this species. It is as follows:—

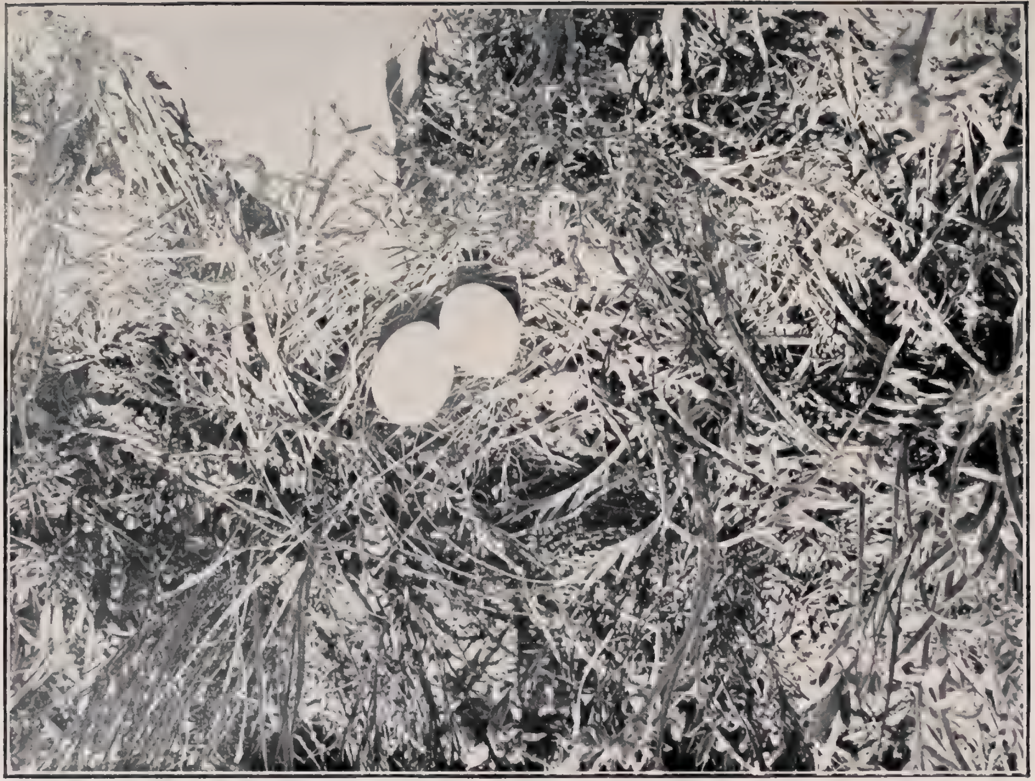

Photo Keystone View Co.

Mourning Dove's Nest and Eggs on Meadow Land.

"The intention of the observations recorded in this article was to "determine the extent of the breeding season of the doves nesting in "Imperial County. Of the three species nesting in this farm district "(Brawley) two, the Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura* "*marginella*), and the Mexican Ground Dove (*Chamaepelia passerina* "*pallescens*) are residents. The third, the Western White-winged Dove "(*Melopelia asiatica mearnsi*) is migratory."

"A nest of the White-winged Dove was found May 24, 1921, about "a mile from my ranch, containing two full-grown young."

"The Mourning Dove furnished the following dates in 1920:

"Jan. 18. 1 nest containing 2 eggs."
"Feb. 7. 3 nests containing 2 eggs."
"May 10. 10 nests contained eggs or young."
"June 22. 16 nests contained eggs or young."
"July 17. 7 nests contained eggs or young."
"Aug. 12. 5 nests contained eggs or young."
"Sept. 23. 1 nest contained egg or young."

"The Ground Dove furnished the following data:

"Jan. 22. 1 nest containing 2 full grown young."
"Feb. 14. same nest containing 2 eggs."
"April 10. 1 nest containing 2 eggs."
"May 5. 1 nest containing 2 eggs."
"June 2. 2 nests containing 2 eggs."
"Aug. 12. 1 nest containing 2 eggs."
"Sept. 23. 1 nest containing 2 eggs."
"Nov. 7. An old dove seen feeding half-grown young."

"The Mexican Ground Dove appears to be partial to old nests, "using its own or that of a Mourning Dove generally; but I have seen a "pair using a Sonora Red-winged Blackbird's nest; and during 1921 a pair "has used an old Albert Towhee's nest for three broods, beginning to sit "January 30 on the first eggs, and June 21 on the third set. I have never "seen more than five of the doves about at one time. The area covered "contains about one acre, the farm residence and 83 trees, mostly "eucalyptus and a few pepper-trees.—J. C. Fortimer."

I hawe never kept the Mourning Dove in captivity, but if the opportunity came my way anytime of acquiring this species I should aval myself of it. Treat them as hardy, and feed similarly to the well known and somewhat similar Aurita Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), i.e., on seed and small grain, also berries and small fruits when in season. They are handsome doves, but their call is not a pleasant one, being almost a soft moaning sort of sound, but nevertheless not pronouncedly mournful in a roomy garden aviary containing a mixed series of birds.

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The Breeding of the Cordon Bleu at Liberty.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

In aviculture it is often the unexpected that happens, but the unexpected is usually the unpleasant and not the pleasing. If you expect to fail in breeding some bird, against difficulties, you will seldom prove wrong in your expectations, but if you expect to succeed, ten to one your hopes will end in failure. Still there are exceptions, and my Cordon Bleus are certainly a striking example.

Late in June I bought a few pairs of Cordon Bleus as part of my experiment with waxbills at liberty. After keeping them shut up for a few days to grow accustomed to their surroundings, I released them in the garden. But apparently liberty was not to their taste, for, although provided with food and water outside, a few hours later every one of them had entered the parrakeet aviaries through the ¾in. mesh. There they stayed, for although an odd one or two would sometimes come out again and hop about the lawn in the early morning, the majority stayed with the parrakeets. Newly imported Cordon Bleus are said by some writers to be extremely delicate. They are nothing like so fragile as Fire and Dufresne's Finches, but the hens did not do over well and I picked up two or three dead in the course of the next few weeks. But the birds remained in the aviaries, and as my intention was to have Cordon Bleus at liberty and not in aviaries I started driving them out every morning. This treatment rather offended some of them, and they left altogether, but three pairs settled down nicely and passed through a successful moult. Now and again I saw a cock displaying with a bit of grass in his beak, but the weeks passed by and we saw nothing of eggs or young ones. The birds spent a good deal of time, in company with other species of waxbills, in the kitchen garden, where they fed on the ornamental grass *Eragrostis elegans*, of which all keepers of waxbills should take note. About mid-September a cock and hen were picked up dead, but about the same time a small globe-shaped nest of the flower stems of *eragrostis* was found in an American bramble about four feet from the ground. The nest was close to the path, but the Cordon Bleus, to whom it belonged, were not readily disturbed by passers-by. It was only if one inspected it very closely that the cock or hen would pop out of the hole at the side and commence a thrush-like chatter of annoyance in the bushes near by.

Clearly it was going to be a race against time and weather. The long, hot summer could not last for ever, and what chance would tender nestlings, intended for a tropical climate, have against fog and frost and cold rain? Still, the fine weather held, and a cautiously inserted finger tip revealed the presence of young birds on October 17th. But on the 22nd a change came, and the weather became wet and unsettled. On the 23rd it became beastly. I spent the afternoon trying to capture a poor little Blue-winged Lovebird—the last of a brood of six—who had accidentally been left out when the rest of his family were caught up two days previously. About midday I heard him calling in the trees, and I hastily brought out the others in their cage hoping to decoy him down. At first everything went well; he called and they answered, and it seemed only a question of time before he discovered their whereabouts and could be restored to parental care—for he was too young to feed himself. But alas! at that moment it began to rain—icy rain and torrents of it. The birds in the cage got cold and bored and stopped calling, and finally the young one flew feebly away out of sight. In desperation I released the father of the brood, hoping that he would find and feed his offspring before evening, and I then turned my attention to Cordon Bleus. I first caught a hen on the feeding tray, who was looking rather puffy ,(not the mother of the young), and then decided, as no brood could live through such a night, to take in the nest as soon as darkness came, with any birds, old or young, that it might contain. Accordingly I cautiously stopped up the entrance hole a few hours later, and then took the nest indoors. On opening it I found nothing at all, save an addled egg and a lining of hen's feathers. Clearly the young ones had flown a few days before. If they were not already dead the night would finish them. Certainly it gave them no chance if they were alive; about 10 o'clock the sky cleared and the ground became white with frost, while a strong north wind blew through the trees.

Next morning I was out early; I was more sad than surprised to find the corpse of the poor little Blue-wing lying under the tree in which he had been hatched. Even the old bird looked none too well, and I recaptured him as soon as possible. The three adult Cordon Bleus at liberty seemed to have survived, and the only other waxbills left out a pair of Violet-ears looked as jolly as if it were midsummer. Passing near the American bramble, I heard the chatter of an old Cordon Bleu in a small wild pear tree, and examining the tree with my field-glasses, I was astonished to see three baby Cordon Bleus, looking a little puffy, it is true, but by no means ill. How they survived cold rain, frost and bitter wind will for ever be a mystery to me, but there they were. Not wishing to try their constitutions any further, I caught up the remaining old birds, putting one cock in a box cage on the top of the garden wall under the pear tree. In the wire-netting top of this cage I arranged a kind of funnel so that it was easy for a bird on the outside to jump down and in, but unlikely that the decoy would find his way out. The plan answered perfectly. After a couple of hours, the three little birds, growing hungry, flew down to the cage, and one by one entered the hole. I transferred the whole family to comfortable quarters in a warm room, where, in a short time, they were quite at home.

The sexes seem to be distinguishable from the nest, as one young one has much more blue than the other two, which appear to be hens. The beaks of all three are black, not partly flesh-coloured, as in the adults.

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Doves as a part of a Mixed Series of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

I have always been interested in doves, and during my avicultural experience (45 to 46 years) I have usually possessed several species.

Doves very often are very quarrelsome with other species of doves, but perfectly amiable towards their smaller fellow captives (*Fringillidae* and *Ploceidae*), and equally so with members of *Tanagridae*, *Sturnidae*, *Turdidae*, etc.; in fact the pugnacity of doves appears to be exclusively confined towards their own kind (*Columbidae*). However, provided they are not overcrowded, the worst that usually happens is the wrecking of some dove's nest.

In my largest aviary, where I keep a very varied collection, from a waxbill to a thrush, I have kept, during the past three years, without other mishap than the wrecking of two doves' nests, the following species:

Indian Green-winged Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*).
Vinaceous Turtle Dove (*Turtur vinaceus*).
European Turtle Dove (*Turtur communis*).
Red Mountain Dove (*Geotrygon montana*).
Aurita Dove (*Zenaida aurita*).

The last named is the most quarrelsome of the quintet.

All, with the exception of the Vinaceous Turtle and the Aurita, have nested and successfully reared young. The animosity between these two species has been most pronounced, but it has mostly exhausted itself in the males of the respective species chasing each other about and then virulently bashing each other with their wings; when hard pressed, one or the other dashes into a thick bush, and hostilities are for the time being suspended. It is when these wing-battles have taken place at the nest side that the nest has been wrecked and the eggs broken. It is to this cause that I attribute the failure to hatch out or rear young with these two species. These two species have insisted on forming their own frail nests amid the branches, and these require but little force to disintegrate and fall to the ground in a collection of separate twigs. The other species have formed their nests in the shallow boxes provided for the purpose, and even when a battle has been fought in the nest, only on rare occasions has an egg been broken.

In another aviary, in the past, I have kept, for several years on stretch, amid a mixed series of small and large passerine birds and a few parrakeets, the following species together:

Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*).
Peaceful Dove (*G. placida*).
Indian Green-wing Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*).
Dwarf Ground Dove (*Chamaepelia griseola*).
Barbary Turtle Dove (*Turtur risorius*).
Passerine Dove (*Chamaepelia passerina*).

All the above, excepting the last named, nested and successfully reared young, and the hen of the pair of Greenwings lived for nearly twelve years, out of doors the whole period.

The Diamond Doves successfully reared eleven young birds during their first year in the aviary, fourteen the second year, and nine the third year, when they were sold, and I have regretted parting with them ever since, for I have not possessed so prolific a pair since.

The Peaceful Doves, in spite of their specific name *placida* (*tranquilla*), were the most quarrelsome of this series; and they only reared an odd young bird or two annually during the three years I kept them.

Barbary Turtle Doves; these scarcely need remarking upon, as they breed anywhere and anyhow if only given rational treatment and a little space, and often do so without these essentials.

The Passerine Doves are charming little creatures, appearing even smaller than the wee Diamond Dove, owing to their short tails, but they are much more stoutly built. These failed to rear anything the first year, and only reared an odd young bird or two during the succeeding two years of their stay with me. Mr. H. Willford bred this species quite freely in his aviaries in the Isle of Wight.

This pair of Green-wing Doves only reared two young birds in three years, when the cock bird died, but his mate survived him for nine years.

The Dwarf Ground Doves are charming little mites, small and stout, very pretty though plainly clad, as their specific name (*griscola*) implies. They only reared two young birds in the two years I kept them. They were, if anything, a little less hardy than the other five species, but, if I remember rightly, my pair were brother and sister! They came to me from Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, who was the first to breed this species in captivity.

I have kept and bred many other species of *Columbidae* at various times, but the above two examples must suffice to demonstrate the charm of a few pairs of doves in a mixed series of birds.

They give variety and interest to the collection, not merely in point of size, but also in form and habits, as they differ greatly from their fellow captives; whatever they be.

Their menu is very simple, in fact nothing extra is needed beyond the seed supplied for a mixed series of *Fringillidae*, but it lessens the aviary seed bill considerably to supply them with a mixture of small grain (wheat, hemp, dari, maize); grit and rock salt should be continually in the aviary, as in my opinion few doves do well without these two items.

They are hardy and long enduring birds; all the species named in this paper, as well as many others, have been successfully wintered out of doors, for a series of years, both by myself and other aviculturists.

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The Picui Dove *(Columbula picui).*

By W. Shore Baily.

Very few doves of any kind have been imported during the last six or seven years, and when, last autumn, I saw a small pair of South American Doves offered for sale, I thought myself lucky to secure them, more especially as an invasion of rats had wiped out my collection of small doves, including Diamond, Zebra, Peaceful, and Cape Doves.

When possible I like a pair of doves in each aviary, as they generally agree well with the other occupants, and there is always a chance of their breeding.

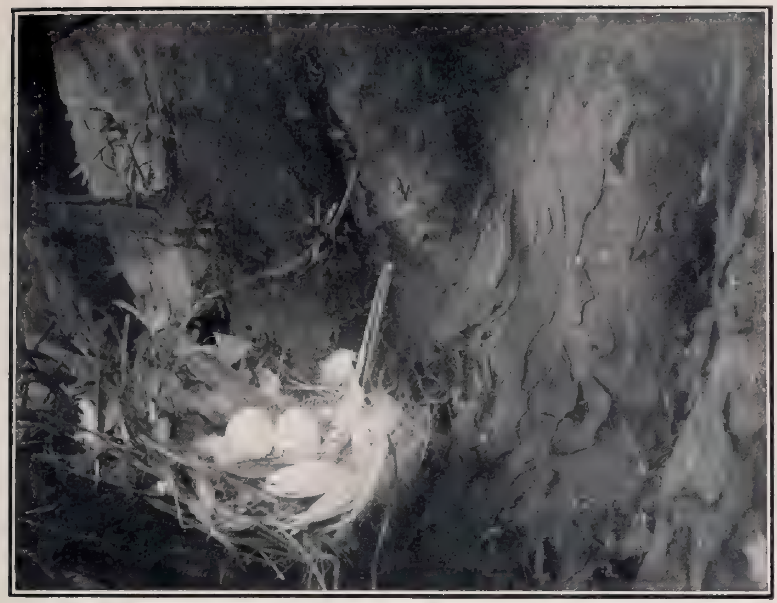
My Picui Doves came over with the Yellow Seed-finches, on the nesting of which an article has already appeared in "B.N." They are pretty birds, just a trifle larger than the well known Diamond Dove, but have a shorter tail. Their distinctive feature is a black bar running across the wing. My pair is not so tame as most of the pairs of Diamond Doves that I have kept, but they do not hide away in corners, and are nearly always on view. I don't know whether they are considered delicate, but I think that they would be better indoors during the winter months. I have generally brought in my Diamond Doves in November, and had I done so last season I should have saved them from the rats. The Zebra, Peaceful, and Cape Doves have always wintered in a well sheltered aviary out of doors.

I turned the Picui Doves into a small aviary early in May, and they were not long in hunting out a nesting site. This was under the cover of the shelter, which was just as well, as the weather was stormy. To my surprise they built quite an elaborate nest; this had quite a cup, and was well lined with feathers. I have kept many kinds of doves, but have never had a pair build anything worthy of the name of nest before, most of them being content with a most flimsy kind of structure. These little Picui Doves nested altogether four times this season, and on each occasion the nest was well built and lined with feathers.

The trouble with these birds, as with many other species of doves, is that they neglect their young ones. These leave the nest far too soon, generally before they can walk or fly, and then the old birds go to nest again, and are too much occupied to feed the young ones properly. I lost the three first pairs from this cause, and it was only this month that they at last succeeded in fully rearing a fine pair. These young ones were hatched in a nest in the aviary about 8ft. from the ground, and it was ten days after they had left the nest before they could fly. It seems to me strange that the fall from the nest did not injure them in any way. At one time these birds seem to have been fairly frequently imported, and several of our members have, I believe, bred them, but I do not think that any have been imported by the dealers since the beginning of the war.

Writing of this bird in her book *My Foreign Doves and Pigeons*, our late member Miss R. Alderson, with whom I had a good deal of correspondence at different times, says:—

"I have spoken of this dove's aggressiveness towards other doves, "but now and again the right is on the tiny bird's side; and then one "cannot but admire its courage. I remember especially one instance. "A pair each of Aurita and Picui Doves were in one house, and the latter "had laid and were sitting well on two beautiful eggs. One night when "I looked around I found the hen Picui sitting, with the cock Aurita "roosting on the edge of the nest; the cock Picui was outside in the flight "looking miserable. Next day things were worse, for I found the Aurita "in full possession of the nest, and the poor little Picui cock standing on



Nest and Eggs of Picui Dove.

Photos by W. Shore Baily.

Young Picui Dove.

"his back, and in his desperation trying to beat the intruder off with his "wings."

Miss Alderson appears to have had a good many pairs of these birds, but did not succeed in breeding them.

Writing of this species in *Argentine Ornithology*, Hudson says:—

"This species, the smallest of our doves, is common everywhere in "the Plata district where it is called *Tortolita* (Little Turtle Dove), Azara's "name Picui not being known to our countrymen. It is usually seen "with its mate, for many individuals usually pair for life, but sometimes a "dozen or twenty unite in one flock. It is resident, comes a great deal "about houses, and is familiar with man, and lively in its habits. It sings a "great deal in summer, and even on warm days in winter, but its tones are "wanting in the wild pathos which gives a charm to the melody of some "of our larger species, the song consisting of a succession of long rather "loud and somewhat monotonous notes, pleasant to hear, like most bird "music, but nothing more."

"The nest is the usual slight structure of sticks, the eggs two, oval "and white. They breed twice or sometimes three times in one season, "the last brood being hatched as late as April or May."

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Waxbills as Aviary Birds.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

To the Waxbill-group belong Avadavats, Cordon Bleus, and Firefinches, all of which appear to reach us in a more or less debilitated condition, needing careful nursing up before being put into the aviary, even in almost tropical weather. If the weather be hot and appears likely to remain so, then with most of the species a day's resting up will suffice, and the cage doors may be left open, leaving the birds to make their exit at will.

Certain of the species, however, call for extra care, and must be kept in the nursery-cage for a longer period the cage or cages should hang in a reasonably sunny position in the aviary-shelter; of course, sickly looking individuals must be isolated for a time—among those calling for such extra care I include Black-cheeked Waxbills, Cordon Bleus, Firefinches, etc.; and for the lack of this care there are many losses that need not have occurred. There are certain points we should recognise in connection with this, viz:

Only fit-looking birds should be released into the aviary after a day's resting-up.

A weakly, ill-conditioned bird, does not get all it needs in the midst of a crowd, it lacks the energy or inclination to push and assert itself in a strange community, and many such birds get hustled " West " under such conditions. They should have the opportunity to rest and feed up in a cage with no other occupants to disturb them, and remain there till in a reasonably fit condition—most of them do not need drugs of any kind, merely an undisturbed period to recoup after the hardship of importation and the rail journey from the dealer.

Now, just a few remarks as to aviary conditions—an aviary in which waxbills are kept should have a roomy, well-lighted, dry shelter attached to it, to which they can retire at will, with bunches of twigy branches, not merely for perching accommodation and cover, but also as nesting sites if they prefer to nest under cover. With this provision the condition of a wilderness-flight during the summer months is not of great importance, providing there are trees and shrubs for cover and nesting, and some hardy flowering plants to attract flies and other insects. It is during the period commencing November 1st and ending March 31st, that the flight conditions assume importance. But even this does not involve much: First, all trees and bushes should be pruned and cut into shape; then all undergrowth—i.e., grass, docks and other herbaceous weeds and plants should be closely mown, and finally a general clearing up and the removal of all leaves and decaying herbage, so that light and air can get everywhere and accomplish its purifying purpose. Neglect this and what have you? An overgrown wilderness, a dank, sour, death-dealing place during the wet autumn months. But no *thoughtful* humane aviculturist would tolerate such conditions; nevertheless, there is often much cruelty for want of thought, and I have seen such aviaries; aviaries in which the pruning knife had not been used for years, nor the ground herbage touched for a similar period—the greater part of the year's offal gets removed when the ground weeds are closely mown and removed; and the flight, even amid winter's dankness, a healthy place for the birds to exercise in.

We must recognise that winter mortality does not arise from periods of hard frost; it is during the thaws and cold rains that the death roll grows—yet it need not go beyond the normal, if reasonable precautions be taken.

I had better interpose here, and say that, too often when an aviary is built, the shelter receives but little consideration, and practically the whole attention and care and thought is given to the flight—one too often sees a huge flight, with a shelter shed about 8ft. x 6ft., with an apology for a window of a square of glass about a foot square! This is all wrong. The shelter is the more important part, and the flight, however grand and commodius, is practically useless without a good shelter, or useful only as a summer habitation.

Then the question presents itself as to what constitutes a good shelter. My experience teaches me that the main essentials are:

It must be roomy.

As well lighted as a living-room.

Rain and wind proof—i.e. dry and free from draught.

The aviculturist *must* remember that abnormal weather-conditions do arise and that not infrequently; if these be provided for, the normal will look after itself—therefore, I unhesitatingly say that, a shelter, which does not provide accommodation for the whole of the birds to be shut up therein, for two or three weeks on stretch if need be, is a bad one and altogether inadequate for the birds' needs.

Now, after thus clearing the way we may consider the birds.

Waxbills are charming creatures in an aviary, and I know no more delightful picture to gaze upon, than a series of pairs of, say—Cordon Bleus; Avadavats; Grey, Orange-cheek, Gold-breasted, Blue-breasted, Green, and Violet-eared Waxbills—disporting themselves amid the foliage of a wilderness aviary, such as is here illustrated.

In this flight I have, when leisure permitted, watched the birds untiringly for longish periods, and there was always something fresh to interest every time one visited the aviary. To sit outside the aviary on a sunny day and watch the birds; such scenes will never fade from my memory—how happy these wee mites were! more among the grasses and herbage than in the trees and bushes. To see a Gold-breast or Cordon Bleu on a tall grass seed-head (when the photo was taken the grass was nearly two feet high), the grass stem swaying almost to the ground under the light weight of these fairy-like sprites, was entrancing, and a sight never to be forgotten—on a stiffer stem, when perched at the top, at a little distance, the Gold-breast has been mistaken for a golden flower—or to hear the sudden whirr of wings when some wretched mouse momentarily scared them, as they rose, a small cloud of wee feathered life, to seek cover amid the trees and bushes. 'Twas in this aviary that the Orange-cheek Waxbill brought up their brood, in a snug nest on the ground, cunningly woven into the grass amid which it was placed; here also the Gold-breasts brought forth their young from a nest placed in a privet bush, only two feet above the ground. In a clump of dock about three feet high Olive Finches wove their nest amid the seed heads, and in due course

A Wilderness Aviary.

brought forth their young—yet this charming summer paradise would have been a winter death-trap had it not been treated in the autumn on the lines indicated earlier in this article.

In this aviary Black Tanagers, Malabar Mynahs, Grey-winged Ouzels, Pekin Robins and others brought forth their young all in the same year; pairs of Yellow-winged Sugarbirds and Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers, Blue Robins, Plumbeous Redstarts, etc., all dwelt with the wee-mites we are considering, and gorgeous as many of these were, yet the beauty of the waxbills was not eclipsed, nor were their charming characteristics and habits obscured or stamped out by these larger neighbours. Their individuality stood out; they did not hide away, but openly, with throbbing throats, trilled out their little lay of the gladness of life.

During the time of seeding grass the aviary seed bill was a light one—mice were the heaviest cost in this respect!

I will anticipate a query or two: Were these wee mites visible among this dense herbage? Yes, for the swaying and bending grass stems revealed them; perhaps the Grey, and St. Helena Waxbills were the most difficult to see, but they were seen, and one could visualise the charm of their more subdued colouring, and how exquisite it was amid this setting of living green.

Were they interfered with or disturbed by their larger neighbours? No, I cannot call to mind a single loss from this cause; nay, I go farther and state that the peace and harmony of the aviary was far in excess of one in which *only small birds* were kept.

Do I hear a whisper "But there is nothing about treatment in all this!" I beg to differ, for I sincerely hope it breathes all through these notes, though nothing has been said as to various seeds, etc. In this mixed series, canary, white, and Indian millet, wild seed mixture, insectile mixture, milk-sop, fruit and live insects was the regular Bill of Fare to meet the requirements of so varied a collection. Of these the waxbills regularly visited the seed pans, but they favoured the millet pan most of all; occasionally they picked over the insectile mixture, and most days took a *little* milk, but seldom they nibbled the fruit, though I have seen them do so—they took many flies off the fruit very seldom did they trouble about a mealworm, for they got all the insect life they requried amid the herbage.

As regards the young they reared they certainly disgorged seed into the little gaping beaks, but during the early days of their offsprings' life, they spent nearly their whole time amid the grass and herbage, finding there more than enough to meet the requirements of the little hungry ones at home.

Enough! or I shall weary, though one never lacks matter when writing on such a topic. By the way, if one wishes to bring waxbills even more fully into the picture, hang up a few millet sprays in a conspicuous position, and almost before your back is turned they will be at work upon them.

Again, if one wishes to assist in "keeping the peace" provide seed vessels in all four corners of the aviary.

As a last word I would say that the only bickering I ever noticed in this aviary was the occasional contention of two pairs of birds for the same nesting site, and, of course, the most self-assertive pair (not necessarily the largest or the strongest) carried the day—but such matters soon found a level and without anything serious happening, even when it was a case of diamond cut diamond" by two self-assertive pairs coming into conflict, then it was persistence which carried the day.

Editorial.

Late Nesting Notes: Mr. Bright reports the successful exit from the nest of broods of the following species:—

Avadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*).
Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*).
Masked Doves (*Oena capensis*).
Australian Crested Doves (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).

On the whole our member appears to have had a successful and interesting season.

Hen Pheasant in Male Plumage: Re the notes on this occurrence in Mr. W. T. Page's aviary (*vide* page 245 October issue); the moult is now complete, and, save that there are no tufts behind the eye, and no red skin round the eyes, and that the *ground work* of body plumage is light earthy-brown, her plumage is entirely that of a male: the white neck-ring is very clear and distinct; the breast is rich mahogany-chestnut, and the lower abdomen is splashed with black; her tail, now fully developed, is as long and not to be distinguished from that of a male bird. She is not a Hermaphrodite, as she laid a number of eggs last season, and at least one this.

An Abnormal Plumaged Grey Parrot: Our member Mrs. M. Burgess has recently received from France an abnormal colour phase of the Grey Parrot, to which she has given the not inappropriate name of "Pinko." All are acquainted with the, so called, King Grey Parrots, in which the body colouration is grey, more or less variegated with stray red feathers. Mrs. Burgess' unique specimen is totally different from these, inasmuch as the body-colouration is a decided rose-pink, with only a few grey feathers; it is larger than an ordinary Grey Parrot, with a very wide back. It was privately imported from the Congo. It is a female and has laid four eggs since coming into Mrs. Burgess' possession, which it did in June last. Our member proposes to mate it up with an ordinary Grey next season.

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Correspondence.

VISITING MEMBERS' AVIARIES.

Sir,—If any member of F.B.C. is in this neighbourhood, and cares to see my aviaries, I shall be most happy to show them.

Ipley Manor, Marchwood, Hants. (Miss) VIOLET MACDONALD.

[The editor apologises for having inadvertently omitted to include the above in September issue of B.N.—Ed.]

NESTING OF BLACK-CAP LORIES, ETC.

Sir,—It may be of interest to B.N. readers to get a few further notes of the doings of my Black-cap Lories (*Lorius lory*).

After successfully rearing their first baby, the parent birds showed signs of a desire to nest again, and an egg was laid which got broken on October 28th. On the 30th she laid again and incubation commenced forthwith and I am hoping I may get another baby Black-cap this year.

The parent birds are most interesting birds and are simply devoted to each other; I have never seen them give each other a sharp nip even in play, as some couples do. They plainly showed by their demeanour their *pride* in their first baby.

I have also bred a few Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), and a nice lot of Blue, and Blue-bred Budgerigars.

Bristol, 2:xi:21. (Mrs.) M. BURGESS.

A DISASTROUS FINALE.

Sir,—I have had a dreadful finale with my Black-cheek Waxbills (*Estrilda erythronota*).

I caught up the two pairs in lovely condition and turned them into a warm greenhouse. Two days later one looked slightly out of sorts in the morning, but cheered up when the sun came out. Next morning it was missing, but the three survivors looked the picture of health. As we were looking for the dead (?) bird, two of the others fell to the ground, as though shot. One was dead when we picked it up; the other rallied for a few seconds, and I put it in a cage, whereupon it gave a shiver and was dead, too! I released the survivor and caught him later in the day on one of the feeding trays, intending to cage him, but when I went to take him from the trap he had a fit like the others. I put him on the grass apparently in his last convulsions, whereupon he pulled himself together and flew off, very groggily. Next morning he was in the best of health. I shall leave him out to take his chance, since the species seems able to live or die according to the whim of the moment!

If these birds had been subjected to sudden confinement and change of diet, I should not have been surprised at their getting fits a fortnight or so later, but in the greenhouse they had abundant exercise, shade and live insect food.

Havant; October 25, 1921. (The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

A NOTE ON THE SENEGAL PARROT.

Sir,—I was interested to read in October Bird Notes that Dr. Amsler has a misogynous Senegal Parrot. When I acquired my exceedingly tame specimen. Reggie (who is a she) from Mr. Frostick in 1912. the vendor told me that he disliked his mistress and couldn't bear any women. From the moment of her arrival at Hazeleigh Rectory she abandoned this naughty proclivity, and has not been induced by the air of Huntingdonshire to go back to her old bad habits. In fact she is the friendliest and tamest parrot I have ever possessed, and may safely be stroked by any visitor, which is more than can be said of most *Psittacidae*.

Brampton; October 19, 1921. G. H. RAYNOR.

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Reviews and Notices of New Books.

Birds One Should Know: Beneficial and Mischievous. By Rev. Canon Theodore Wood, illustrated by Roland Green, F.Z.S., 10s. 6d. net: London: Gay and Hancock Ltd., 34, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C., 2.

One of the most pleasing books on British Birds we have opened for some time. The get up is perfect both as to illustrations and text. The illustrations by Roland Green are some of the best we have seen there are eight exquisite coloured plates, each a work of art; and the same applies to the sixteen half-tone plates and the 185 line drawings in the text; all are beautifully reproduced. The book deals with thirty-three species—Kestrel, Sparrow Hawk, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-backed Shrike, Rook, Starling, Jay, Magpie, Wood Pigeon, Nightjar, Lapwing, Pheasant, Partridge, Blackbird, Thrush, Sparrow, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Hawfinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Swallow, House Martin, Swift, Great Titmouse, Blue Tit, Cuckoo, Green Woodpecker, Spotted Flycatcher, Skylark, Pied Wagtails, Seagulls—The story of their life and habits is tersely and interestingly told, and their merits and demerits to the agriculturist clearly set forth. One can imagine [illegible] more suitable gift for youth or adult than this beautiful book during the coming Christmas season.

WILD LIFE IN THE TREE TOPS: By Capt. C. W. R. Knight, M.C., F.R.P.S., M.B.O.U. Illustrated with 53 reproductions from photos by the Author. 21s. net. LONDON: Thornton Butterworth Ltd., 15, Bedford Street, W.C., 2.

Books on British birds are legion; the subject is almost overdone, but this book is a welcome addition. It is a work of beauty and interest. The text illuminates the photos and the photos say AMEN to the text! It is not merely a history of our native birds but it is *Life in the Tree Tops*, the Author there, and the text simply tells what he saw, and the (his) camera faithfully and pictorially confirms same in the various plates. Most of the photo-reproductions are really wonderful, but the one which fascinated the writer more than any other is that of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker in flight. The book is divided into the following chapters:

I. A Rookery in Spring.
II. The Buzzards of the Doone Country.
III. The Lady's Hawk.
IV. In the Depths of a Fir Forest.
V. The Greater Spotted Woodpecker.
VI. The Swiftest of British Hawks.
VII. Two Brown Owls.

VIII. Denizens of a Beech Grove.
IX. About the Kestrel.
X. Photographing the Crow.
XI. Concerning a Sparrow Hawk Family.
XII. The Home Life of the Heron.
XIII. Birds and Artillery Fire.
XIV. Some Strange Incidents.

A book which all Nature- and Bird-Lovers will welcome—not merely one to be read and admired and put aside, but it will be taken up again and again with renewed interest, and fill with pleasure many a passing hour.

Post Mortem Reports.

NONPAREIL BUNTING: G. J. Slade, Southampton.—Cause of death enteritis.

FINCH: A. H. Barnes, London,—Cause of death ruptured mesenteric artery. This is a fairly common mishap in birds. I do not know whether it is due to arterial disease or violence from the bird hitting against the wires. Probably it is a combination of the two.

BUDGERIGAR: R. E. Simpson, Armley.—Cause of death pneumonia, probably due to the change of quarters at the wrong time of year.

N. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.,
Hon. Pathologist.

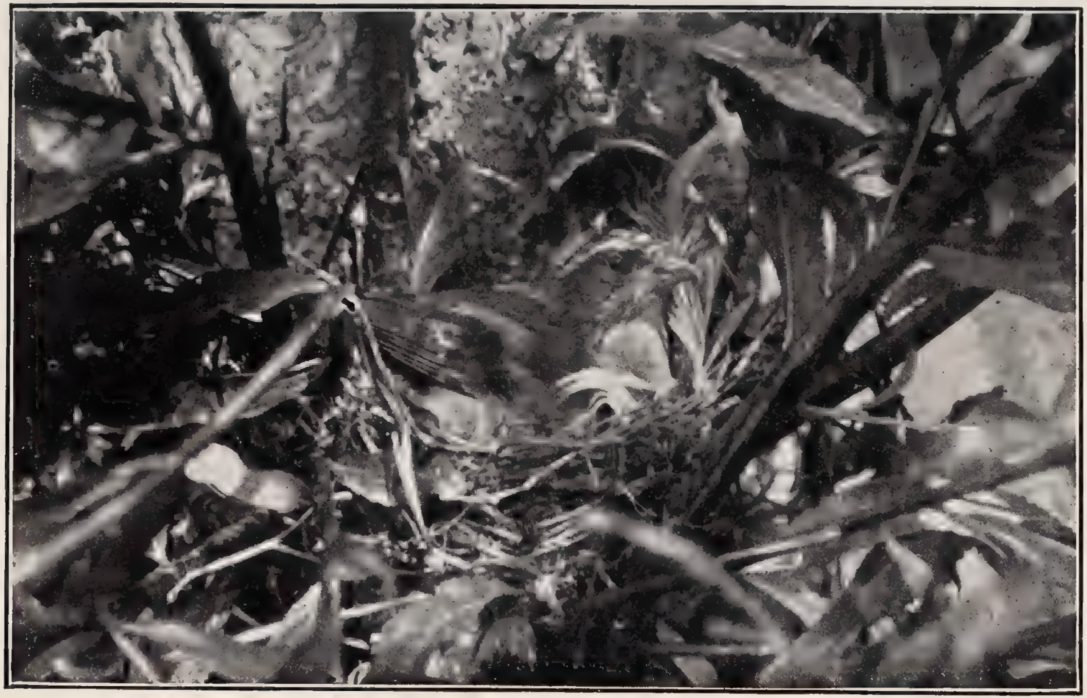

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Stripe-headed Grosbeak Incubating.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Nesting of the Stripe-headed Grosbeak.
Poliospiza gularis.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

This rather plainly-coloured little bird is, I believe, fairly frequently imported, and usually comes over with consignments of Finches and Weavers from the east coast of Africa. It is generally quite cheap. Probably its plain colouration and lack of song make it a poor seller with the public. As far as I know it has not yet been bred in this country.

In the Spring of 1920 I bought seven or eight of these birds, and turned them into an aviary with a few other small birds. The whole of the summer they did nothing, simply spending their time hopping aimlessly about the branches and consuming seed. In the autumn I transferred them with a lot of other birds to an indoor aviary. An invasion of rats took off most of them, and in the spring I found myself left with one solitary example. On visiting the bird shops in London a week or two later, I secured another, and this bird I turned, with the 1920 survivor, straight into my largest aviary. I saw very little of them for several weeks, as they are somewhat shy and unobtrusive birds, but at the end of July I saw one of them playing with a feather. A few days later I found a neat little nest, built close to the stem of a willow. Moss, cotton-wool, and paper were the materials used, and the interior was lined with swan's down. Three eggs were laid, white, lightly marked with small brown spots. The hen sat very steadily for ten days, but alas! the eggs were infertile, so I removed them for my collection.

In October she again went to nest; three more eggs were

Stripe-headed Grosbeak at Nest.

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

laid which were also infertile, and I can only conclude that I have two hens, especially as I have never seen them take any notice of each other.

Messrs. Woodward, in describing this bird, say:

> "This is a widely distributed species; we obtained it in Alexandra "County (Natal) as well as in Zululand. Mr. L. C. Layard found the "nest and eggs, both of which resemble those of the large Yellow Canary "(*S. sulphuratus*). They seem particularly quiet birds, congregate in "small flocks, and feed on grass seeds."

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Some Tanagers I have kept.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

For gorgeous and resplendent plumage the *TANAGRIDÆ* almost outrival the brilliant plumages of the Australian *PSITTACIDÆ* and *LORIIDÆ*, yet with the former the most fastidious of colourists could not complain of garishness; all is in perfect harmony, yet the refulgent hues almost beggar description.

Of the genera *Tanagra* and *Rhamphocoelus*, which include the Archbishop, Blue, Palm, Scarlet, and Maroon Tanagers, I have found all the species perfectly hardy if put out of doors in the spring *when in good condition.* This cannot be said of *Calliste* (Paradise, Tricolour, Superb, Black-backed Tanagers, etc.), *Chlorophonia* (Necklace, and All-Green Tanagers, etc.), and *Euphonia* (Violet, and Pectoral Tanagers, etc.), all of which should be promptly taken indoors each autumn, and kept there till the following spring—there may be one or two exceptions to this statement, but my experience teaches me that it is the only safe course to take with these three genera as a whole, for I am convinced that success in wintering them out of doors is only individual and does not apply to any given species as a whole—I have tested them in my own aviaries and also carefully noted other aviculturists' results, and in my opinion any such success must be taken as the exception which proves the rule—one may succeed in wintering a given species of *Calliste*, *Chlorophonia*, or *Euphonia* for two or three winters out of doors, only to lose it during the third or fourth, and it is not the abnormally hard and lengthy frosty snowy spell that proves the fatal factor, but the mild spell, too often raw and wet, which follows same that sends it "West." Yet in most cases the individual was in fully as apparent health and vigour after the severe spell as it was at the commencement of same. So personally, for my own use at any rate, the whole of the species of *Calliste*, *Chlorophonia*, and *Euphonia* are labelled *half-hardy*.

I must also add that with Tanagers I have never put an unfit individual out of doors, even though the weather might be tropical when it arrived!

With this introduction I will pass in review some of the Tanagers I have kept—merely remarking that, up to time of writing, I have only bred one species of *Tanagridae*, viz: The Black Tanager.

The Black Tanager (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*). This is one of the few species of tanager that is self-coloured. The male is shining black, which scintillates forth blue or steel coloured reflections according to the play of light—it has a white patch on each wing, but this is only seen when the bird is in flight. The female is a rich, shining tan-colour. The beaks and feet of both sexes are black.

I found this species perfectly hardy—I had one pair for six years; they began to rear young in the second year, and they successfully reared young for four years, and doubtless would have continued to do so for another year or two, but they were sold when my Mitcham aviaries were dismantled in 1916. I have told the story of their successful breeding in a back volume of Bird Notes, so need not repeat it here.

I know of no nicer species for a mixed series in a wilderness aviary than this species. They are nearly always in the picture, and if there is no scarlet, green, or yellow in their plumage, they were as striking and handsome as any bird in the aviary, e'en though there were present Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers, Yellow-wing Sugarbirds, Himalayan Redstarts, Blue Robins, etc.

Also I found them amiable, and if they had been murderously inclined there was plenty of scope for them, for their companions included all kinds of waxbills and small finches, nay, they did not interfere with the wee Indian Zosterops, though their nest was in a conspicuous position. Can one say more? Note, they occupied the aviary for six years—true, I did lose two young birds through them, but there was nothing malicious in the details which led up to this tragedy. Briefly the incident was as follows: A pair of Grey-wing Ouzels (quite as large as the English blackbird, annual nesters too) were incubating a clutch of eggs before the Black Tanagers started nesting on their own—the mother-instinct was strong in the hen tanager, and though the ouzels were nearly double her size she insisted in helping the ouzel both to incubate brood and feed their offspring. All went well till the young ouzels left the nest, then the cock ouzel got so disgusted with the state of affairs (the male ouzel is the principal feeder of the young after they have left the nest) that he disowned his offspring and left off feeding them—the hen tanager nobly took them in hand and worked early and late on their behalf, but they were too much for her; they missed the succulent earth-worms their father used to take them, and in a few days they, too, were missing! The next season the Black Tanagers started housekeeping on their own account, and the hen tanager never evinced the slightest interest in the doings of the ouzels after that—they lived happily together (not ever afterwards) for four years, each sedately bringing up their own offspring and "minding their own business"—quite an example for humans this!

BLUE TANAGERS (*Tanagra episcopus*). These two were almost self-coloured birds, but so varied were the hues of their almost self-coloured garment that this was not so apparent when viewed near at hand, but at a little distance they appeared as if clad in delicate pale lavender-blue silk. Unfortunately with this species the plumage of the sexes are similar, and it is extremely difficult to get hold of a true pair.

About ten years ago I possessed two of this species, the last of which had then been with me over eleven years, out of doors the whole period—I found them absolutely hardy and never looking sick or sorry, even during our vilest weather—and I am inclined to believe I had two males, at any rate that was the verdict of the taxidermist over the last as well as it was over the first of them to go "West."

The beauty of this species is simply indescribable when seen amid growing trees and bushes. To see them perched on a holly, box or cupressus bush is a sight never to be forgotten. On the wing they showed silvery-white with blue flights and tail feathers.

Though their deportment, as observed over several years, was that of a true pair, yet they never showed any signs of attempting to nest. Dr. Scott, of Wallington, was later more fortunate; he got hold of a true pair. I saw them during incubation, brooding their young, and the one young bird successfully reared during all its stages, till maturity was reached. They nested on several other occasions in his aviary, but only on one other occasion was complete success attained.

SCARLET TANAGERS (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*). The male of this species is a lovely harmony of fiery scarlet and glossy black, a striking object indeed in any wilderness aviary, and with me it proved as hardy as either of the preceding species.

The female is more subdued—a combination of dull scarlet, ruddy-brown and dull black; yet withal a handsome lady indeed.

Not so amiable as either of the preceding species, will not tolerate other red birds in the aviary, either small or large—there was one exception to this, however, in my aviary, for they took no notice, amiable or otherwise, of a fine Virginian Cardinal which had been in my possession for some years—Rosefinches, and red-plumaged Weavers, Avadavats and Firefinches had to be removed or they would have been slaughtered; yet, he did not attack either the Blue or Black Tanagers who were in the aviary with him. Strange to say, though they had even more space than in my aviary, the Scarlet and Blue Tanager did not agree together in Dr. Scott's aviaries when breeding. I have had no breeding luck with this species, though complete success has been attained by others, but only on two occasions: first by Dr. Scott, and later by the London Zoo. In Dr. Scott's aviaries I had the privilege of observing the whole of the nesting operations, as well as the gradual development of the young reared till they reached the adult stage.

The PALM TANAGER (*Tanagra palmarum*) I need not enlarge upon this species, save that in colour of plumage it is a replica of the Blue Tanager, and is a much duller coloured bird, and consequently not so attractive in the aviary. Yet it is not without beauty, and no tanager could be without interest in a garden aviary.

But what I have written as to the deportment, characteristics, etc., of the Black, Blue, and Scarlet Tanagers, applies equally to this species, and I need not repeat it here.

It is hardy and can be wintered out of doors.

Lady Edith Douglas-Pennant successfully bred this species in her aviaries at Newmarket, and I believe her success to be the only one with this species.

Now I have quoted sufficient of the hardy group of Tanagers, enough to answer my purpose, but have as yet said nothing as to their *menu*.

They do not call for very special treatment—in my aviaries insectile mixture, milk-sop, and ripe fruit were always part of the daily Bill of Fare, and the above tanagers did perfectly well thereupon, taking heartily of all three items. I did not find them to need insects except when feedng young, but in a wilderness aviary not a day passed without their catching some flies and other insects, but when they had young to feed I always saw that they got a fair supply of live food two or three times during the day till their offspring were at least seven days old, but though this is not so important after this stage has been passed the supply should not be suddenly cut off.

Anyone attempting to keep these tanagers in a more artificial aviary than that indicated would do well to supply six or more mealworms, or other insects per bird, per diem—however, once the birds are acclimatised, this is not absolutely necessary, though some live-food should certainly be given during the period of the moult.

Calliste Group: These form some of the most beautiful of imported tanagers, most of which are about the size of a sparrow, and which, for the purposes of this paper, I term *half-hardy*.

It will be idle for me to pass these in review, species by species, as habits and characteristics are so similar that to do so would be to repeat oneself without end.

Of this group I have kept (out of doors during summer-time only) Superb, Tricolour, Emerald-spotted, Festive, Black-cheeked, Black-backed (Copper-headed), and Paradise; under the conditions given earlier in this paper, viz: out of doors in a wilderness aviary from May to October inclusive, and in an indoor flight or cage during the cold months, November to April inclusive.

They were not put out till in a fit condition, and while out of doors in the widerness flight captured all the live insect food they required. Their diet consisted of ripe fruit *ad lib*, insectile mixture, and milk-sop; some do not give the latter, but I am a firm believer in it and have been very successful in keeping this group, though I have not succeeded in breeding any species of *Calliste;* in many cases I have only had males, and when I had both sexes I found the females out of condition when the breeding season started, and the season was usually pretty well advanced before they were in breeding condition, when the result never went farther than a nest; not once did I succeed in getting eggs, nor do I call to mind anyone else having done so.

Of course, while tanagers, generally speaking, have proved amiable in my aviaries, and at one time I had half a dozen (males only) in the same aviary, I never attempted to put *two pairs* of *Calliste* into the same aviary, nor a pair with odd males. I have kept a pair of *Tanagra* and a pair of *Calliste* Tanagers in the same aviary, with a crowd of other birds, without mishap, but never attempted so to keep *two pairs of the same genus.*

Of the pictorial effect of these tanagers in a wilderness aviary there can only be one opinion they are superb! To see them in the sunshine amid the foliage is too fine for words. And to observe them now perched on a spray and again flying to and fro like flashing jewels is a sight never to be forgotten and of which those who keep their birds in cages or flights in a birdroom can have no idea, though they are things of beauty there.

Photo by *W. Shore Baily.*

Golden-breasted Bunting Incubating.

CLOROPHONIA and EUPHONIA GROUP: Very similar remarks apply to these as to the *Calliste* group, with the exception that they need extra care during the cold months, though I am bound to admit that *some* individual Violet Tanagers are very robust indeed, but subject them to any really adverse weather changes, and pneumonia claims its victim; even unseasonable weather in summer tries them, and they soon show the effects of a spell of say, cold rain.

Nevertheless, with the exercise of care and commonsense the aviculturist can successfully keep them, and the apparently troublesome and difficult dietary soon becomes mere routine, and the trouble very slight.

As a last word I will explain the preparation of the milk-sop for newly-arrived tanagers: take six or more pieces of sponge cake (about the size of a walnut), place in a dish, put over same teaspoonful each of condensed milk and honey, and half a teaspoonful of Mellin's Food; add sufficient boiling water to make a liquid sop—well stir together and supply to the birds when cool.

◆

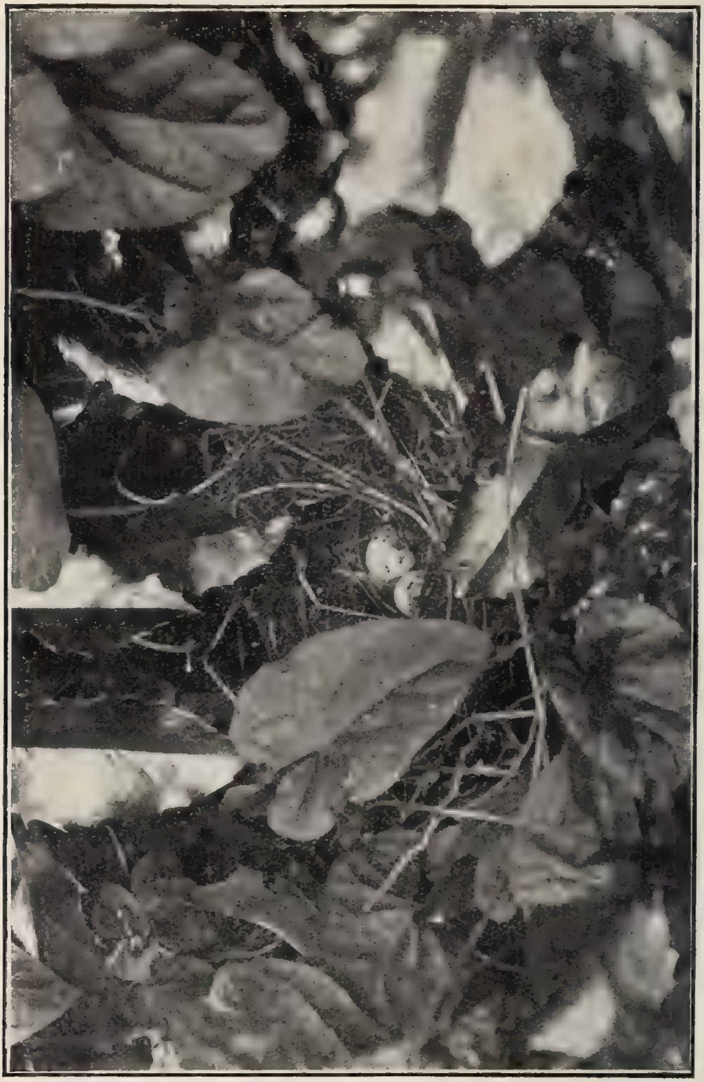
The Nesting of the Golden-breasted Bunting.

Emberiza flaviventris.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

This really handsome bird has been an occupant of my aviaries for some years, but this is the first season in which any of them have attempted to nest.

This year I turned a pair into a small aviary where, with the exception of a pair of Picui Doves, they had no companions larger than themselves. I was quite uncertain whether I had a true pair as, like so many foreign finches, the sexes are alike; but early in June I was cheered by hearing one of them making an attempt at a song. This only consisted of two notes, but at least it was something, and might be taken as an evidence of sex. A few days later I saw the other bird carrying grass, with which she constructed a flimsy cup-shaped nest in a box bush. Two eggs were laid, white with a well marked zone of purplish spots and blotches at the larger end. These unfortunately proved infertile. About a month later she again went to nest in the same bush. On this occasion only one egg was laid, which was also clear, so I substituted for it an egg from



Nest and Eggs of the Golden-breasted Bunting.

Photo by W. Shore Baily.

the nest of my Yellow Seed-finch. This egg was duly hatched, but unfortunately the food supplied did not seem to suit the chick, and it died when about a week old. The bunting proved a good foster mother—would take mealworms almost from my hand, so it was all the more disappointing that the young Seed-finch was not reared.

Writing of this bird in *Natal Birds*, Messrs. Woodward say:

> " This is a very pretty finch, 5½ inches in length. Its head is black,
> " longitudinally striped with white; upper part of back and wing-coverts
> " rufous, lower part grey; wings brown, with a white band; tail brown,
> " external feathers broadly tipped with white; beneath bright yellow, tinged
> " with rufous on the breast. It frequents gardens and orchards, where it
> " is very useful in destroying insects. It is common on the coast of Natal
> " and in the thorn belt of the Umhlatusé, where we found its nest. This
> " was built in the fork of a small tree, loosely constructed of coarse grass
> " and lined with a few roots; eggs three. white, irrregularly marked with
> " black lines and spotted with black, forming a ring at one end."
>
> " We once took a young bird from a nest, and put it into a cage,
> " when the parent birds continued to feed it for some time, bringing it
> " grasshoppers, etc. Unfortunately a long grass-snake had taken up its
> " quarters in the tree where the cage was hung, and one day it seized the
> " poor bird between the bars and killed it. The bird does not sing, but
> " has a curious cry by which it is easily recognized."

Editorial.

A RETROSPECT: To review fully the past year in all its details would be largely to repeat retrospects of previous years, for it is surprising how the same faults, wants, etc., linger on through the years; F.B.C. is of age now. When shall we grow out of them?

The present issue completes another volume, and it contains so much from your Editor's pen, that he hesitates to review it; still, there are one or two points which he can touch upon.

This year we reach the goodly size of 300 pages, 34 half-tone plates and 36 text figures, exclusive of the green page inset.

So far as the writer is concerned the contents must be left to speak for themselves.

There is one fault which may be mentioned (opinions may differ) viz: the articles from the same pen are too numerous—we want more writers for our Journal. True, the war left many gaps, which have not yet been filled, and the difficult times since have closed many aviaries, but are we doing all we could in this respect? Your Editor's opinion is in the negative!

The year has been one of difficulties, but these have been mostly surmounted; the new mmbers are not so numerous as usual—not very surprising perhaps—about sufficient to balance retirements and leave our Roll strength about " as you were.

The position calls for the full support of each individual member.

We need more members.

We need more copy from diverse authors for the Journal.

We need subscriptions to the Illustration Fund.

This year sees the retirement of two officers who have served the Club well for many years, viz:

Mr. S. Williams, *Hon. Business Secretary.*

Mr. S. M. Townsend, *Hon. Exhibitional Secretary.*

The former is compelled to give up owing to lack of time to carry out the duties, and the latter from ill health. To both we tender sincere and grateful thanks for their freely given services and valuable time used on our behalf.

I must mention three specially who have assisted in the year's achievement. To my colleagues Mr. W. Shore Baily for copy and photos, the Rev. G. Raynor for assistance with proof reading, also the Marquis of Tavistock for several deeply interesting and practical articles, the Editor is deeply grateful.

We cordially thank one and all who have contributed in any way to the completion of the year's work, most certainly including Council, Officers and Committees.

We congratulate the Club on a successful year's work.

ZOO NOTES: The following extracts from the *Reports on Addition to the Menagerie* for September, October, and November are of interest.

Bred in the Menagerie:—

Sept. 1. Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cyanea*)—1.
,, 11. Cockateel (*Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae*)—1.
Oct. 8. Sacred Ibis (*Ibis aethiopica*)—1.
,, 25. Geoffroy's Dove (*Peristera geoffroyi*)—1.

Additions New to the Collection :

Sept. 1 Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus crassirostris*).
Oct. 1 Salvin's Razor-billed Curassow (*Mitua salvini*).
Nov. 1 Long-tailed Roller (*Coracias caudatus*).
,, 2 Magnificent Fruit-Pigeons (*Megaloprapia magnifica*).
,, 2 White-fronted Bronze-wing Pigeons (*Henicophaps albifrons*).

Other interesting additions are :—

Nov. 1 Sayaca Tanager (*Tanagra sayaca*).
,, 1 Six-plumed Birds of Paradise (*Parotia lawesi*).
,, 2 Magnificent Birds of Paradise (*Diphyllodes hunsteini*).
,, 1 Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).
,, 2 Swift Parrakeets (*Nanodes discolor*).

◆

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide rules on page *ii.* of cover.

◆

Blue Budgerigar (♀): Miss Lois Foster.—The cause of death was a granuloma of the liver. a disease caused by a chronic inflammation.

Budgerigar (♂): The cause of death was an abscess of the lung.

Blue Budgerigar : Mrs. Bourke.—Cause of death a general infection occurring in a weakly bird.

Blue-breasted Waxbill : Mrs. Calvocoressi.—Cause of death bronchitis.

Violet Tanager (♂): Capt. Reeve.—The cause of death was Mycosis. This is due to a mould and is infectious. A careful watch should be kept, and if further cases occur everything should be disinfected, and possible contacts kept in quarantine.

Cockateel (♂): Cyril Best, Esq.—Cause of death acute enteritis.

Paradise Whydah (♂): Mrs. Chatterton.—The cause of death was an enteritis with terminal congestion of the lungs.

Jungle Mynah : Mrs. M. Read.—The cause of death was congestion of the lungs.

NATH. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.
Hon. Pathologist.

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JANUARY 1921.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: We greatly regret the late appearance of this issue, but such items as copy coming in late, thorough revision of Roll of Members, etc., have made its earlier appearance impossible. The list of officers and committees will appear in February issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREARS: We have had to remove the following names from the roll, owing to their subscriptions being unpaid and no notice being taken of repeated postal application for same.

Armstrong, Mrs. A. M., Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham.
Arrighi, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh.
Avery, Mrs. A., 63 Windsor Road, Forest Gate, E. 7.
Ditchfield, F., 37 Nugget Street, Oldham.
Elms, E. F. M., Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey.
Hyde, Walter, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames.
JARDINE, J., Castle Inilk, Lockerbie, N.B.
Johnson, Maj. F., Melrose, Wilbury Road, Hove, Brighton.
Mannering, R., Knoll Cottage, Noak Hill, Romford.
Meadows, J. C. W., 19 Cardiff Road, Luton.
Morrison, The Hon. Mrs. McLaren, Queen Ann's Gate, London, S.W.
Yule, Lady, Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, St. Alban's, Herts.

Any of the above can be reinstated upon payment of arrears and giving satisfactory explanation.

BANKERS' ORDERS: Some of our earlier members who pay by bankers' order have neglected to have them altered since the club subscription had to be increased to 20s. per annum in 1919. Will they kindly have their orders corrected, so as to save the Hon. Secretary unnecessary trouble and the club funds the cost of postage in applying for the deficiency.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*.
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor*.

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them; the Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Cushney, C.	0	10	0
Perreau, Mrs. G. A.	0	10	0
Pettigrew, M.	0	10	0
Sich, H. L.	1	0	0
Smith, W. W.	0	5	0
Wallace, N. H.	1	1	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mulvey, W. E., 5 Overleigh Road, Chester.
By the Hon. Editor.

New Members Elected.

Miss Violet Macdonald, F.Z.S.,
Miss J. Chaloner Ellis, Cranborne Hall, Windsor Forest.

Register of Club Breeders.

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved.

* The Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.,
Stanley Parrakeets.
Barnard's Parrakeets.

* Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.
Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

* Burgess, Mrs. M., Helston House, 56 St. John's Road, Clifton, Bristol
Blue Budgerigars
Olive Budgerigars
Green-Blue Bred Budgerigars (from France).
Yellow Budgerigars
Roller Canaries.

Clare, Miss L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.
Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* Chatterton, Mrs. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End London, N., 8
Cockateels
Budgerigars

* Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* Marsden, J, F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars

* Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* Pithie, Miss D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Zebra Finches.

* Money, Sir L., The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, London, N.6
Swainson's Lorikeets (Prefers to exchange with members, but willing to sell).

- **Montefiore, Mrs. H. Sebag,** East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
  Green Budgerigars.
  Cockateels.
- **Tracey, Mrs. A. L.,** Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
  Zebra Finches

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register, and that with the exception of the first named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

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The Bird Market.

Members' Rates: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

WANTED: Hen Cockateel, and clear Yellow Budgerigar hen; must be from outdoor aviary.—Col. de Legh, Hincliffe House, Near Durham.

FOR SALE: Red-vented Bulbul, and White-crested Jay-Thrush; acclimatised and in outdoor aviary.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: Tanager (species?), think Striated. WANTED: Acclimatised pairs of Gouldian Finches, both Red and Black-headed forms.—H.G. the Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke.

FOR SALE: Rhode Island Red Sittings and day-old chicks, from the best utility strains; catalogue on application.—Bainbridge, Keyneston Manor, Poultry Farm, Blandford.

FOR SALE: Lovely pair of Swainson's Lorikeets; also pairs of Aurita, and Wild Turtle Doves, Red-vented Bulbuls, and Jungle Mynahs. Also 2 young Stanley Parrakeets, hen Bengal Parrakeet, cock Ring-necked Pheasant. Very fine Missel Thrush and English Starling.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

De VON & Co.

Black Vasa Parrot £8; Yellow-bellied Grosbeaks, £3 each—only been imported once before. Thousands of birds in stock; also Goldfish, American Catfish, Green Tench, Golden Carp, etc. Pekin Robins arriving shortly. Price lists,

De VON & Co.,
127 King's Cross Road, London.

RULES.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds, and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 5s., and an annual subscription of 20s. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's subscription shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New Members shall be proposed in writing by a Member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the Candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more Members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any Candidate he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable for the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, a Council of Twenty-four Members and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, President and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Three Members of the Council shall retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th

December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the Members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club, on or about the 15th of November, a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (×) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the president shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any Member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of Members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between Members, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations or additions shall be submitted to the votes of the Members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time than at the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have pawer to appoint any Member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of a majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

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Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The Patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all OPEN SHOWS, provided the following conditions are observed.

   (*a*) At least three classes must be provided for *FOREIGN BIRDS* (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F.B.C. patronage may be shown).

   (*b*) The classification and name of the judge must be submitted by Show Secretaries, when applying for patronage.

   (*c*) Those societies obtaining patronage must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

   (*d*) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation) of classes must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to the Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case the original patronage does not hold good.

2. All MEDALS are awarded to BEST BIRDS (but the Committee have the right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3. Members of the F.B.C. *must* place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms, and should request show secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.;* one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes are given, and the Provincial Silver Cup at Shows outside this area, for points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can

be nominated, which is done by writing the word "Cup" after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform annuls all offers, and the birds of a member whose subscription is unpaid at the time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with at the discretion of The Show Committee.

Rules re Breeding Medals.

1. The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions only:

(*a*) As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in Bird Notes as soon as the young can fend for themselves.

(*b*) The Awards Committee, whose decision shall be final, to make the awards from the Secretary's data, and the published articles recording successes.

(*c*) The awards will be made, and the medals distributed at the close of each successive season, or as soon afterwards as the publication of said articles permit.

2. SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

3. HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species—the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch × Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Long-tailed Grassfinch × Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid for the purposes of this award, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record will not be eligible for a medal.

ROLL OF MEMBERS.

Honorary Member.

Filmer, H. R. (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Carrington Road, Brighton.

Ainsworth, A., 13 Henry St., Kilbronie, Wellington, New Zealand. (August, 1920).

Allan, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).

Amsler, Dr. Maurice, Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).

Arnold, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatahm, London, S.W. 16. (March, 1912).

Arnott, Peter, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).

Atkinson, Capt. F. B., Gallowhill, Morpeth, Northumberland. (Aug. 1920).

Ayton, Ed., 71 Grosvenor Street, London, W., 1. (March, 1918).

Baily, W. Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).

Bainbridge, Capt. W. A., Keynston Manor, Tarrant Keynston, Blandford. (September 1912).

Bamford, Wm., Dunedin, Cornwall Road, Harrogate. (June, 1904).

Bartels, O., " Orchida," Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. (Jan. 1917)

Batty, Capt. W. R., 11 Park Road, Southport. (October, 1915).

Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908)

Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

Bentley, Ernest E., St. Mary's Lodge, Louth. (March, 1914).

Birbeck, W., Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich. (September, 1920).

Bourke, Hon. Mrs. Gwendolin, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. 1. (Dec. 1909).

Bousfield, Miss M., Avon Court, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth. (January, 1908).

Bowring, Miss Clara, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks. (July, 1914).

Bright, Herbert, Woolton Tower, Woolton, Liverpool. (October, 1911).

Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan, Dumfrieshire. (Mar. 1908)

Browning, W. H., 16 Cooper Square, New York. U.S.A. (February, 1910).

Bruce, Miss A., Chevet Park, Wakefield. (March, 1909).

Bufton, Reginald P., Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire. (Jan. 1913)

Burgess, Mrs., Helston House, 56 St. John St., Clifton, Bristol. (Sept. 1915)

Cade, R., Baytree Cottage, Southgate, London, N. (November, 1919).

Calvocoresi, P. J., Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool. (October, 1916)
Camps, H. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. (Orig. Mem.)
Capern, F., Lewin's Mead, Bristol. (October, 1907).
Carr, Percy, Ormond Lodge, Newbold-on Stour. Stratford-on Avon. (November, 1918).
Carr, R. H., Nant-y-Glyn, Windsor Avenue, Leicester. (November, 1919)
Case, Mrs. A. M., Holmbury, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne. (February, 1918).
Chaplin, Mrs. Drummond, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia. (July, 1914).
Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware. September, 1903).
Chatterton, Mrs., 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. (Jan. 1915).
Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).
Child, F. R., Braemar, The Downs, Luton. (March, 1920).
Christie, Mrs. G., Kellas, By Elgin. (January, 1913).
Clarke, L. Hyde, Woodlands, St. Olave's, Gt. Yarmouh. (October, 1918).
Clarke, S., " Vue du Lac," Fermain, Guernsey. (August, 1911).
Cleeburg, Chas., junr., Bellevue House, Dumfries, N.B. (December, 1916)
Colton, R., 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield. (February, 1913).
Connell, Mrs. Knatchbull, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912)
Cook, Mrs. A. M., F.Z.S., 5 Lancaster Road, Hampstead, London, N.W. 3. (February, 1916).
Croker, Chas. E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (October, 1911)
Crow, C. F., Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby. (October, 1915).
Currie, J., 128 Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh . (August, 1913).
Cushny, Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell, and Haldane, 47 Watying St., St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.)

Davies, Mrs. M. H., St. Ann's, Tintern, Chepstow. (January, 1914).
Davey, R. W., 33 St. Luke's Road, Totterdown, Bristol. (November, 1919).
Decoux, A., Gery, Par Aixe-sur-Vienne, France. (May, 1919).
Delacour, Jean, Chateau de Cleres, Cleres (Seine-Inferieure), France. (January, 1910).
Dennis, Mrs. Harold, Lisle Court, Wooton, I.O.W. (January, 1904).
Dennis, Mrs. Cyril, Oakley Hall, Market Drayton, Salop. (June, 1920).
Dell, C. E., 9 Greenhill Road, Harrow. (January, 1914).
Dickinson, Mrs. E., c/o Mrs. K. L. Storey, Hawling Manor, Andoversford, Gloucs. (January, 1918).
Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).
Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (November, 1907)
Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (Nov. 1901).

Dyott, Capt. R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).

Earle, J. Hudson, Newgate House, Cottingham, Hull. (March, 1914)
Ebrill, Wm., "Greenville," South Circular Road, Limerick. (April, 1906).
Edmunds, W., Blenheim, Park Road, Swanage, Dorset. (November, 1909).
Edwards, J., 1224 Eas Forty-third Street, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. (January, 1920).
Ellis, Miss J. G., Cranbrook Hall, Windsor. (January, 1920).
Ezra, A., F.Z.S., Foxwarden Park, Cobham, Surrey. (January, 1911).
Ezra, D., 3 Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (August, 1912).

Falkner, Guy, The Redesdale, Moreton in Marsh, Glos. (November, 1916).
Fasey, Wm. R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (Jan. 1903).
Few, T. H., Hyde House, Hart Hill, Luton, Beds. (January, 1920).
Fisher, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).
Fitch-Daglish, Dr. E., F.Z.S., 8 Beaulieu Villas, Finsbury Park, London, N. 4. (April, 1919).
Ford, A. Freeman, 215 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (October, 1918).
Foster, T., Fairlight, Babbacombe, Torquay. (March, 1914).
Fowler-Ward, Dr. F., 40 Berners Street, Ipswich. (October, 1913).
Frost, W. J. C., 6 Wards Ave., Fulham, S.W. 6. (August, 1913).

Garcke, Mrs. C., Wye Lodge, Maidenhead. (June, 1916).
Gerrard, Miss M., 11 Lung Arno Serristori, (Pension Casali), Florence, Italy. (June, 1914).
Gills, R. H., 4 Queen's Grove, Longsight, Manchester. (February, 1919).
Goodwin, T. J., 185 Old Kent Road, London, S.E. (January, 1920).
Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).
Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., 23 Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. 8. (May, 1906).
Green, Neal, F.Z.S., Holbeck Manor, Horncastle, Lincs. (February, 1919)
Grossmith, J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).
Grove, Mrs. Julian, Brattemsley House, Lymington, Hants. (March, 1917)
Gurney, G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

Halkes, T. C., The Limes, 141 Monks Road, Lincoln. (July, 1916).
Hand, Miss R., Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (January, 1919).
Hansson, Mrs. Vera Hirst, The Low Hall, Killinghall, Harrogate. (January, 1918).

Harbord, Miss M. L., Lorton Park House, Lorton, Cockermouth. (April 1916).

Harcourt, The Rt Hon. **Lewis**, P.C., 69 Brook Street, London, W. 1. (April, 1914).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 6 Ashburnham Road, Bedford. (Oct. 1907)

Harris, **Chas.**, F.Z.S., 127 King's Cross Road, London, W.C. (April, 1910).

Harrison, T. O., 127 Hasting's Road, Sunderland. (March, 1918).

Hartley, Mrs. E. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (Sept. 1907).

Hawkins, J. E., Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. (April, 1915).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem).

Hebb, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton. (August, 1912).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March, 1907).

Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).

Hincks, Miss E. M., Easterlands, Wellington, Somerset. (December, 1904).

Hopkinson, **Emilus**, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon, Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (October, 1901).

Horne, A., Bon-Na-Coille, Murtle, Aberdeen. (August, 1917).

Howe, **Frank**, 54 Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (February, 1902).

Hume, **James**, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Hunnings, Lieut. A., F.S.I., 31 Broadwater Road, Tottenham, London, N. (March, 1918).

Jeakins, A. E., Winscottie, Simla, India. (April, 1916).

Jersey, The Couness of, Middleton Park, Bicester. November, 1912).

Johnson, Miss L. **Sturton**, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (Sept., 1910).

Kennedy, Mrs., 7 Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

Kewley, Mrs. M. A., Barwich House, Yeovil, Somerset. (September, 1910)

King, A., 1101 South Orange Grove Ave., Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (March, 1920).

Knobel, Miss E. **Maud**, 32 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (Dec. 1911).

Laveaga, J. V. **de**, Mills Building, San Francisco, U.S.A. (May, 1920).

Leach, C. F., Vale Lodge, Leatherhead. (July, 1914).

Li'callier, Mme. G., Le Pavillion, St. Pierre-les-Elbeug, France. (Aug. 1919)

Legh de Legh, Col. H., Shincliffe, near Durham. (April, 1911).

Lilford, The Lord, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, 1914).

Lindsey-Renton, G. H., Dovers, Reigate, Surrey. (February, 1919).

Livings, M. L., 39 Cambridge Road, Gunnersbury, W. 4. (March, 1920).

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (February, 1909).

Low, G. E., 14 Royal Terrace East, Kingstown. (May, 1914).
Lowndes, Capt. D. G., Lansdowne, Garwhal, U.P. India. (March, 1920).
Lucas, Miss Emma, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (Sept., 1913).
Lucas, Capt. N. S., M.B., F.Z.S., (*Hon. Pathologist*), 19 Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. 2. (January, 1914).

MaDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.L.S., 4 Wimpole Street, London, W. (January, 1903)
Macdonald, Miss V. (January, 1921).
Mackness, Mrs. N., Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley, N. (June, 1916)
Marsden, J., F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Morecambe, Lancs. (March, 1914).
Marshall, M. M., South Grand Ave., Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (March, 1919).
Master, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov. 1903).
Maxwell-Jackson, Miss M., Berry End, Knaresborough, Yorks. (Jan. 1913).
Maxwell, C. T., 1 Shardcroft Aven., Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).
Mills, Y. H., F.R.C.S., 27 Hill Street, Haverfordwest. (August, 1920).
Millsum, O., The Firs, Westwood, Margate. (July, 1907).
Montague, G. R., 63 Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. 21. (February, 1909).
Montgomery, W. O., c/o Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).
Mortimer, Mrs., Wigmore, Beare Green, Dorking, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.).
Mundy, Miss Sybil, Grendon Hall, Grendon, Northampton. (Aug., 1911).
Mulvey, W. E., 5 Overleigh Road, Chester. (January, 1921).
Murray, S., 14 Beauford Gardens, Lewisham, S.W. 1. (October, 1920).
Murton Marshall, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (August, 1913).

Nairne, Dr. S., Burleigh Mead, Hatfield, Herts. (January, 1920).
Newell, W., Croxley Green, Herts. (May, 1920).

Oakey, W., The Anglers' Inn, Pole Street, Preston. (Orig. Mem.)
Oberholser, Harry C., 2805, 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (December, 1903).
O'Reilly, Nicholas S., 144 Eastern Road, Kemp Town, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.)

Page, W. T., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., (*Hon. Editor*), Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey (May, 1905).
Painter, V. Kenyon, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).
Percival, W. G., Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (January, 1915)

Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucs. (February, 1903).

Perreau, Mrs. G. A., 16 Evelyn Court, Lansdown Terrace, Cheltenham. (September, 1916).

Pettigrew, M., 6 Fifth Avenue, Kelvinside, Glasgow, W. (January, 1920).

Phair, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).

Phillips, E. R., 12 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Ireland. (September, 1915)

Pike, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).

Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (September, 1908).

Pithie, Miss D. E., 68 Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth (rej. Jan. 1918)

Pollack, A. J., Loretto House, Heaton, Bradford. (August, 1917).

Pond, Mrs. T., Wylfa, Llangollen. (November, 1902).

Pope, Mrs. Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).

Porter, S., Selwyn House, Old Normanton, Derby. (August, 1920).

Powell, Miss M. M., Hawthorn House, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool.

Prior, F., Nala Lodge, Stoke Hill, Worplesden, Guildford. (July, 1920). (May, 1914).

Pullar, Lawrence H. F., F.Z.S., Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. (October, 1913).

Pyman, E. E., West House, Hartlepool. (May, 1919).

Quincey, R. de Quincey. Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (Auguse, 1910).

Rabb, D. S., Inglewood, California, U.S.A. (August, 1920).

Rathborne, H. B., Dreenan, Letter, Co. Fermanagh. (November, 1915).

Rattigan, G. E., Fluder, Kingskerswell, Nr. Newton Abbott. (March, 1909).

Raynor, Rev. G. H., M.A., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (Dec., 1909)

Read, Mrs. W. H., Church Croft. Thames Ditton, Surrey. (rej. Jan. 1921)

Reeve, Capt. J. S., F.Z.S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

Restall, J. A., 82 Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (November, 1903).

Robbins, H., 37 New Oxford Street, London, W.C. 1. (October, 1908).

Rogers, W. T., 21 Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907)

Rogerson, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (February, 1903).

Rotherwell, James E., 153 Sewell Avenue, Brooklyn, Mass., U.S.A. (February, 1911).

Rumsey, Lacy, 23 Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova re Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).

Ryan, G. E., (Bar-at-Law), 28 Cleveland Square, Hyde Park, London, W. 2. (November, 1913).

Schuyl, D. G., 12 Toe-Haringylist, Rotterdam, Holland. (January, 1914).

Scott, Capt. B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

Scott, A. H., Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants. (October, 1915).

Sebag-Montefiore, Mrs., East Cliffe Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).

Sich, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W. 4. (June, 1908).

Silver, Allen, F.Z.S., 18 Barneswell Road, Newport, Mon. (rej. 1920).

Simpson, R. E., Highfield Nursery, Hencouner Lane, Chapel Allerton. Leeds. (December, 1907).

Slade, G. J., 34 Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton. (February, 1915).

Smith, J.. Woodlands, Kendal. (January, 1910).

Smith, W. W., 43 Connaught Road, Harlesden, N.W. 10. (April, 1920).

Snape, Maj. A., R.A.F., 6 Boscombe Rd., Blackpool, S.S., Lancs. (Mar. 1918)

Snarey, H., 21 Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

Southcombe, S. L., Hill House, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset. Sept. 1910).

Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (February, 1908)

Sprawson, Capt. E., M.C., M.R.C.S., etc., 68 Southwood Land, Highgate, London, N. 6. (October, 1913).

Sproston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (Jannary, 1911).

Stephens, A. J., Mount Pleasant, Weeley, Essex. (February, 1914).

Stewart, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (February, 1914)

Storey, Mrs. A., Hawling Manor, Andoverford, Glos. (November, 1912).

Stott, A. E., 15 East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).

Street, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909)

Strickland, E. A., 16 Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

Suggitt, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (December, 1903).

Suggitt, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (January, 1915).

Sutcliffe, Albert, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

Swayne, Henry A., 29 Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).

Sykes, J., 16 Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (January, 1912).

Taintegines, Baronne le Clement de, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).

Tavistock, The Marquis of, Warblington House, Havant, Hants. (Jan. 1913)

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (December, 1908).

Thorburn, Miss C. W., 99 Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

Tomassi Baldelli, L- Countessa G., 4 Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (December, 1901).

Tomlinson, Malcolm R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April, 1913).

Tossizza, Baron M., 15 Rue de Lubeck, Paris, France. (March, 1916).
Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3 Swift Street, Fulham, S.W (Original Member).
Tracy, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Shaldon, Teignmouth. (February, 1914).
Travers, Mrs. Johnson, Kingcragie, Courteskerry, Co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).
Turner, Herbert J., Tremadoc, Keyberry Road, Newton Abbott. (Feb. 1915)
Turner-Turner, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (November, 1910).

Valentine, E., 7 Highfield, Workington. (December. 1911).
Vermillion, D. S., 11 Chester Place, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. (January, 1920).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4 Great Stuart St., Edinburgh. (Feb. 1909)
Wait, Miss L. M. St. A., 12 Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London. S.W. (December, 1007).
Walker, J. Carr, Pannal Hall, Pannal, Near Harrogate. (March, 1916).
Wallace, Norman H., Iveragh, Shelbourne Road, Dublin. (June, 1917).
Walmsley, J., " Dalecot," Mayfield Road, St. Annes-on.Sea. (May, 1919).
Watson, S., 37 Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).
Wedge, E., Thorpedale Cottage, Chorley Wood, Rickmansworth, Herts. (February, 1915).
Wellington, H. G., The Duchess of, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke, Hants. (April, 1918).
Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907).
Whistler, Hugh I. P., c/o King, King & Co., Agents, Bombay, India. (January, 1913).
White, A. L., Gleshire, Barrowby Road, Grantham. (November, 1916).
Whitley, H., Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. (January, 1916).
Wilkinson, T. F., 1105 Meridan Ave., South Pasadena, California, U.S.A.
Willford, Henry, (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Ryde (July, 1908).
Williams, Sidney, F.Z.S., (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), " Oakleigh," 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. 13. (October, 1910).
Williamson, T. F. M., 525 Howard Place, South Pasadena, California, U.S.A (August, 1917).
Wilson, Miss F. M., 35 Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906)
Winchilsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford (June, 1903).
Windybank, L. A., Blean Hyrst, Blean, Nr. Canterbury. (June, 1916),

Woodward, Kenneth N., 1 Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. (Feb. 1915)

Workman, W. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast (June, 1912)

Wormald, H., Heathfield, East Dereham, Norfolk. (rej. January, 1920).

Yealland, James, Binstead, Ryde. (September, 1909).

Yellibrand, Commander H. B., 180 Sandgate Rd., Folkestone. (Nov. 1920).

Young, Miss Constance, Thornhill, Alnwick. (October, 1911).

Young, Lieut. H. R., 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W. 16. (January, 1920).

Zoological Society, The New York, 185th Street and Southern Boulevard, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1917).

Zoological Society of Philadelphia, The, Philadelphia, Penna, U.S.A. (January, 1920).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List

The Foreign Bird Club.

President:

The Lady Dunleath.

Vice-Presidents:

H. R. Filmer
E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.
E. J. Brook, F.Z.S.

◆

Council:

H.G. The Duchess of Wellington
The Countess of Winchilsea
Lady Kathleen Pilkington
The Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
Mrs. A. E. H. Hartley
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W. Shore Baily
W. A. Bainbridge, A.S.C.
W. Bamford
H. Bright
E. W. Chaplin
Dr. N. S. Lucas
Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh
Capt. G. E. Rattigan
Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.
W. T. Rogers
Maj. A. E. Snape, R.A.
R. Suggitt
A. Sutcliffe
W. R. Temple
H. Willford

Hon. Editor:

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B., Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

Hon. Secretaries:

Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary: Sidney Williams, F.Z.S., "Oakleigh," 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. 13.

Hon. Exhibitional Secretary: Stanley M. Townsend, 3 Swift St., London, S.W

Hon. Solicitor:

H. R. Filmer, Church Street, Brighton.

Hon. Photographer.

H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, Ryde.

Magazine Committee:

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W Shore Baily
Maj. E. A. Snape
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.
Capt. N. S. Lucas, R.A.M.C.
Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh
Rev G. H. Raynor, M.A.
R. Suggitt
H. Willford

Show Committee:

W. A. Bainbridge
Lady Kathleen Pilkington
The Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
Stanley M. Townsend (Hon. Sec.)

Social Committee:

H.G. The Duchess of Wellington
Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke
Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley
W. R. Temple
W. Bamford
W T. Rogers (Hon. Sec.)
A. Sutcliffe

Awards Committee:

The Countess of Winchilsea
H. Bright
E. W. Chaplin
Capt. G. E. Rattigan
R. Suggitt (Hon. Sec.)

Notices to Members.

LIST OF COMMITTEES: These will be given in our next issue, also the Auditor and Scrutineer for the year.

THE MAGAZINE: This issue appears very near to proper publishing date, which we hope to maintain; to this end members will greatly assist by sending in copy.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, ***Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.***
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them; the Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Swayne, Maj. A. E. (Postage and Deficit Fund)	0	12	0
Duchess of Wellington (overpayment)	0	5	0

Any contributions omitted will be included in next issue.

Proposed for Election as Members.

R. N. Gibbard, Mearbeck, New Malden. Surrey.
E. J. Boosey, The Cedars, Bromley Common, Kent.
By the Hon. Editor.

New Members Elected.

Mulvey, W. E., 5 Overleigh Road, Chester.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Percival, W. G., to c/o St. Bank of South Africa, Naroibi, Brit. East Africa.

Add to Roll.

Miss V. Macdonald, F.Z.S., Ipley Manor, Marchwood, Hants.
Mr. J. Weir, Douglas Cottage, Ashley, New Milton, Hants.

Delete from Roll.

Mrs. Rogerson, Cheltenham.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Pairs—Hill-Tits (*Liothrix*), cocks singing 40s., Avadavats 21s., African Silverbills 21s., Red-crested Cardinals 60s., Tui Parrakeets 60s., Nordman's Glossy Starlings £5, Knots 25s., selected cock Red-rump 65s.. Plain-speaking Raven £5, exchange Foreign Birds. Kestrel, Snow-Bunting, Shorelark, Bearded Reedlings, Blue Budgerigars, Half-moon and White-winged Parrakeets, Cockatiels, Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Gouldians, etc., to arrive, private consignment.—Allen Silver, F.Z.S., Newport, Mon.

WANTED: Hens, Reeve's Pheasant, and Blossom-headed Parrakeet. FOR SALE: 2 young, June 1920 hatched, Stanley Parrakeets, Missel Thrush, Starling and Blackbird; also fine breeding pairs Swainson's Lorkeets and Aurita Doves.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Acclimatised pairs of Gouldian Finches, both Red-headed and Black-headed forms.—H.G. The Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke.

FOR SALE: Rhode Island Red Sittings and day-old chicks, from the best utility strains; catalogue on application.—Bainbridge, Keyneston Manor, Poultry Farm, Blandford.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in Bird Notes, the Journal of the Club.

- Gold and Green Tanager
- Orange-flanked Parrakeet
- Vinaceous Firefinch
- Yellow Sparrow
- Three-coloured Tanager
- • Cornish Chough
- Indian Roller
- Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
- Black-backed Tanager
- • Golden-crowned Conure
- Senegal Parrot
- Sepoy Finch
- Waxwing
- Gouldian Finch
- Bronze Cuckoo
- Superb Tanager
- Haw-headed Parrot
- Green-billed Toucan
- Group of Spermophila
- Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
- Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
- A Beautiful Aviary
- • Stellas' Lories
- Blue-billed Weaver
- Black and Yellow Creeper
- Uvæan Parrakeet
- Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
- Blue Budgerigar
- Loo Choo Robin
- Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher
- • Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
- Crimson-ringed Whydah
- Indian White-eyes
- Fairy Blue-Bird
- Blue-rumped Parrot
- Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher
- Large Niltava
- Red-spotted Conure

J. H. Henstock, Avian Press,
ASHBOURNE.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

Will members kindly re-peruse and carefully note the Notices in January and February issues of BIRD NOTES, as these have an important bearing on the welfare of the Club.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them; the Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
A Friend	0	10	0
Mulvey, W. S. (Def. F. 10s. Illus. F. 10s.)	1	0	0
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0
Valentine, E.	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

R. N. Gibbard, Mearbeck, New Malden. Surrey.
E. J. Boosey, The Cedars, Bromley Common, Kent.

Add to Roll.

T. T. Barnard, Kempston Hoo, Bedford.
Stanley Mappin, 12 Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.

Delete from Roll.

F. Howe, 54 Thomas Street, Wellingborough.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

W. G. Percival, to Nanga, Chania Bridge, Brit. East Africa.
G Falkner, F.Z.S., to c/o Std. Bank of South Africa, Nairobi, Brit. E. Africa
A. H. Scott, to Furze Creek, Bosham, Sussex.
Marshall Murton, to 90 Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. 7.
Mrs. C. J. Purvis (née C. J. Young, Thornhill, Alnwick) to West Acres, Alnwick, Northumberland.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

EXCHANGE: Wanted to exchange, young L. T. Grassfinches, either sex, with some other member, to avoid inbreeding.—Mulvey, Mearbeck, New Malden, Surrey.

FOR SALE: 2 young (1920) Stanley Parrakeets; pairs Wild Turtle, and Aurita Doves, Ring-necked Pheasants, and 1 each, cocks, Blackbird, Missel Thrush and Starling.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield.

WANTED: Acclimatised pairs of Gouldian Finches (either Black or Red Heads, or both).—Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park Basingstoke.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised birds. Cocks: Giant Whydah, 40s., Bay-fronted Cowbird, 25s.; Hen Orchard Finch, 40s.; pairs: Cape Sparrows, 30s., Cuba Finches, 30s.; four Yellow and one Green Budgerigars, 50s. lot.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED: BIRD NOTES for 1904 to 1912, inclusive, bound or in loose parts.—Miss Maxwell-Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough, Yorks.

FOR SALE: Selected aviary-moulted British birds: Goldfinches, Bullfinches, Chaffinches, Buntings, etc., cocks and hens.—Percy Carr, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon.

FOR SALE: Male Cockateel, last season's outdoor aviary bred, 21s.—Mackness, 22 Cyprus Road, Finchley, N.3.

FOR SALE: Double-fronted Corner Residence, with side entrance, 5 bedrooms, 3 reception, conservatory, bathroom (geyser), kitchen (gas-cooker), large scullery and cellars. Also photographic dark-room and amateur workshop. Two very sheltered outdoor aviaries, facing south, could easily be enlarged by flights down garden. Viewed by appointment, or further particulars.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, N. 8.

FOR SALE: Eggs for Sitting: R.I.R., W. Wyandotte, and Ancona, best utility strains, 10s. 6d. per dozen, infertiles replaced, or 15 sent and no replace.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

De VON & Co.,

127 King's Cross Road, London.

Avadavats, 7s. pair
Red Tigerfinches, Singing, 5s. each
Budgerigars, Green, 14s. pair
Budgerigars, Yellow, 15s. pair
Saffron-finches, Cocks, 7s. 6d. each
American Blackhead Siskins, 20s. each
Pekin Nightingales, Cocks, 15s. each
Cutthroats, 8s. 6d. pair
Combassous, 7s. pair
Fire-finches, 7s. 6d. pair
Steelfinches, 8s. pair
Singingfinches, Green, 10s. pair
Singingfinches, Grey, 8s. 6d. pair
Orange Bishops, 8s. pair
Whydahs, 8s. pair
Whydahs in colour, Cocks, 6s. 6d each
Lavender Finches, 10s. 6d. pair.
Cordon Bleus, 8s. pair
Cock Reeves Pheasant, handsome, 40s.
Russian Bullfinches, Cocks, 10s.
Russian Bullfinches, Hens, 5s.
Russian Goldfinches, Cocks, 10s.
Common Seagulls, 5s. each
Russian Goldfinches, Hens, 5s.
Cock Goldfinch Mule, 25s.
Hen Goldfinch Mule, 5s.
Dunlin, 10s. pair
Parrot, Black Vasa, Rare, £8
Parrot, Amazon, Young, £3 10s.
Falcon, Yellow-footed, rare, tame, 40s.
Glossy Starling, Longtail, 40s.
Glossy Starling, Longtail, young, 30s.
Ring Doves, 8s. 6d. pair
1 pair Cowbirds, 25s.
Cockatoo, LEMONCREST, £3 10s.
Ox Bird, 25s.
Waxbills, 8s. 6d. pair
1 Dozen Assorted Foreign Birds, 30s.
Arctic Knot, 7s. 6d.
European Bullfinches, Cocks, 8s. 6d.
European Bullfinches, Hens, 4s. 6d.
Hawfinches, Cocks, 8s. 6d.
Hawfinches, Hens, 4s.
Black-headed Seagulls, 5s. each
Heron Gull, 10s.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

BANKERS' ORDERS : Some of our members use this convenient method of payment, but the Hon. Treasurer wishes to draw their attention to the fact that the annual subscription was advanced to 20s. in 1919, and that Bankers' Orders have not been corrected, therefore they are in arrears of 30s., viz. 10s. per year for 1919, 20 and 21. Will such kindly remit same and kindly have their Bankers' Orders revised to 20s.

BREEDING MEDALS : Medals for breeding hybrids and species for the first time in Great Britain have been claimed as under :

Bay-fronted Cowbird—W. Shore Baily.
Goldfinch × Sikhim Siskin—W. Shore Baily.
Vinacious × European Turtle Dove—S. Williams.

Articles have already appeared re these successes; if any member knows of any previous success will they please notify the Hon. Editor at once.

THE MAGAZINE : Owing to our space being otherwise occupied Editorial Notes, etc., are held over to next issue.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them; the Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :

	£	s.	d.
Gorringe, Rev. R. E. P.	0	4	0
Mundy, Miss	1	10	0

◆

Corrections to Roll.

W. Newell should be W. Newall.

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Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

EXCHANGE: Wanted to exchange, young L. T. Grassfinches, either sex, with some other member, to avoid inbreeding.—Mulvey, Mearbeck, New Malden, Surrey.

FOR SALE: 2 young (1920) Stanley Parrakeets; pairs Wild Turtle, and Aurita Doves, Ring-necked Pheasants, and 1 each, cocks, Blackbird, Missel Thrush and Starling.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield.

WANTED: Acclimatised pairs of Gouldian Finches (either Black or Red Heads, or both).—Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park Basingstoke.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised birds. Cocks: Giant Whydah, 40s., Bay-fronted Cowbird, 25s.; Hen Orchard Finch, 40s.; pairs: Cape Sparrows, 30s., Cuba Finches, 30s.; four Yellow and one Green Budgerigars, 50s lot.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Selected aviary-moulted British birds: Goldfinches, Bullfinches, Chaffinches, Buntings, etc., cocks and hens.—Percy Carr, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon.

FOR SALE: Double-fronted Corner Residence, with side entrance, 5 bedrooms, 3 reception, conservatory, bathroom (geyser), kitchen (gas-cooker), large scullery and cellars. Also photographic dark-room and amateur workshop. Two very sheltered outdoor aviaries, facing south, could easily be enlarged by flights down garden. Viewed by appointment, or further particulars.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, N. 8.

WANTED: Can any member recommend young man to take charge of aviaries and fill time in garden; bothy accommodation found, wages 40s. per week.—Apply c/o Hon. Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Black Leghorn sittings from utility strain; flock average 180 eggs—12s. 6d. per sitting. Also stock birds.—Theo Foster, Fairfield, Babbacombe, S. Devon.

MAY 1921.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: The Hon. Editor much regrets the late appearance of this issue, but it has been unavoidable—copy has been short and late in coming in, and he could not fill the gaps as promptly as he desired. He hopes to have June issue out near on time, but copy is very short—members please note.

List of Club Breeders: *Vide* January issue. pages 2—3). DELETE therefrom: Miss L. Clare, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon. Miss Clare ceased to be a member of F.B.C. on December 31st last, and, by an oversight on my part, her name was left on above list.—Hon. Editor.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Mr. W. T. Page's Testimonial Fund.

I am pleased to state that, the response to the appeal for the above mentioned fund has met with a very hearty reception from members of the F.B.C.

A striking feature has been the keen letters of appreciation of the wonderful work which Mr. Page has done for the Society, and regrets that owing to post-war conditions the subscriptions could not be larger.

It is believed that the following list of subscriptions is correct; if any errors have crept in will you please let me know?

An endeavour has been made to keep the expenses in connection with the fund as low as possible, and Mr. Henstock greatly assisted in this by sending out a reminder to all members free of charge.

Extracts from letters received have been sent to Mr. Page, and a cheque for £91 17s. 5d. I am sure that we all wish that he may long continue to be our Editor, and carry on the good work that he has so generously given to us as a Society.

Those of us, who have had nothing to do with the work involved in bringing out a magazine, such as BIRD NOTES, can have no conception as to what it entails—the search for copy, the arranging for illustrations, the lack of money necessary to carry on a magazine at the high level which it has maintained—all these things make work for our Editor, but never once has he failed us, in good times, or in bad, and he tells me that he hopes to help us for many years to come. May it be so, as we would find it very difficult, if not impossible, to find anyone to do the work half so well. Let us all make an endeavour to send him as much copy as we can; it may seem that we have little to tell as to what our birds are doing, but it often happens that, what, to us, seems trivial is usually of great interest to aviculture, so let us all make up our minds to send something and so help to lighten the work of one who does all in his power to help us.

This list to all intents and purposes closes the list of subscribers, but there are many foreign or colonial subscribers whose donations cannot reach us in time for the publication of this list; those names, and also those of late subscribers will be given in subsequent issues of BIRD NOTES.

The amount subscribed was £94 10s., whilst the costs of printing and postage amount to £2 12s. 7d., leaving a balance of £91 17s. 5d., which has been sent to Mr. Page.

W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mrs. E. A. Hartley	10	0	0	Mrs. Burgess	1	1	0
Wm. Bamford	5	5	0	C. F. Crow	1	1	0
W. Shore Baily	5	0	0	A. Ezra	1	1	0
Mrs. G. A. Perreau	5	0	0	J. L. Grossmith	1	1	0
H. Bright	3	3	0	Mrs. W. F. Henderson	1	1	0
E. Ayton	2	2	0	Col. H. Legh de Legh	1	1	0
W. A. Bainbridge	2	2	0	Capt. N. S. Lucas	1	1	0
P. J. Calvocoresi	2	2	0	O. Millsum	1	1	0
Miss L. M. Harbord	2	2	0	F. R. Phillips	1	1	0
T. Hebb	2	2	0	F. E. Pyman	1	1	0
J. H. Henstock	2	2	0	W. R. Temple	1	1	0
J. E. R. McDonagh	2	2	0	Miss L. M. Wait	1	1	0
Miss M. Bousfield	2	0	0	N. H. Wallace	1	1	0
E. J. Brook	2	0	0	E. Wedge	1	1	0
Capt. W. R. Batty	1	1	0	H. Whitley	1	1	0
R. Bufton	1	1	0	Anonymous	1	0	0

	£	s.	d.
W. H. Browning	1	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Jullian Groves	1	0	0
Miss R. Hand	1	0	0
Lacy Rumsey	1	0	0
R. Scott-Miller	1	0	0
Major A. E. Snape	1	0	0
R. Suggitt	1	0	0
H. C. Walker	1	0	0
J. E. Rothwell	1	0	0
The Countess of Winchilsea	1	0	0
Miss A. M. Case		12	6
F. E. Bentley		10	6
Miss E. F. Chawner		10	6
Mrs. A. M. Cook		10	6
T. Foster		10	6
C. Harris		10	6
F. W. G. Hewitt		10	6
Sir L. G. Chiozza-Money		10	6
Mrs. A. C. Paterson		10	6
Mrs. Pope		10	6
M. R. Tomlinson		10	6
Miss F. M. Wilson		10	6
S. Watson		10	6
H. T. Camps		10	0
Mrs. Chatterton		10	0
J. Delacour		10	0
Miss Drummond		10	0
Rev. R. Gorringe		10	0
Miss E. M. Lucas		10	0
M. Pettigrew		10	0
Miss D. E. Pithie		10	0
L. H. F. Pullar		10	0
Rev. G. H. Raynor		10	0
Capt. J. S. Reeve		10	0
J. A. Restall		10	0
R. E. Simpson		10	0
G. J. Slade		10	0
Mrs. Turner-Turner		10	0
S. Williams		10	0
K. V. Painter		9	6
Mrs. Davies		5	0
T. O. Harrison		5	0
J. E. Hawkins		5	0
Miss E. M. Knobel		5	0
G. E. Low		5	0
Mrs. N. Mackness		5	0
R. T. Stewart		5	0
H. A. Swayne		5	0
J. Smith		5	0
Mrs. Johnson-Travers		5	0
H. J. Turner		5	0
J. Weir		3	0
T. Hume		2	6
Mrs. Sproston		2	6

DEAR MR. BAINBRIDGE.—I am in receipt of your cheque value £91 17s. 5d. as a Testimonial, in a very practical form, in recognition of any services I have been able to render the F.B.C. while acting as Hon. Editor of its Journal BIRD NOTES for some years. I also thank you for sending me the subscribers' letters, which I value even more than the former, agreeable as this was in these awful times when one toils more for the rate and tax collector than one's self.

To yourself as originator, and to every subscriber to the fund I am deeply grateful, and the practical fact and the sentiments of the subscribers are, to me, pleasant tokens that BIRD NOTES, to some extent at any rate, meets the requirements of Club members; and this pleasant episode will ever remain with me as a happy memory.

What little I have been able to do for the F.B.C. has been a labour of love and will continue to be so in the future. As "the times" become easier I trust the full, and greater, prosperity of pre-war times will return—it will if we show ourselves worthy by striving for it, and all, officers and members, unitedly direct their efforts to that end.

Hon. Editors have pressing needs in carrying out their duties—my present one is: COPY, MORE COPY, AND STILL MORE COPY.

Again sincere thanks to one and all for this expression of your goodwill and esteem.

Lingfield, May 16th, 1921. WESLEY T. PAGE.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them.—Hon. Editor.

Proposed for Election as Members.

The Marchioness of Bath, Longleat. Warminster.
By W. Shore Baily.
Kenneth S. Mackay, Imber Cross, Thames Ditton, Surrey.
A. H. Barnes, 34, Gledstanes Road, Baron's Court, London, W.
By the Hon. Editor.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Falkner, Guy, to c/o Hon. Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.,
Chatterton, Mrs., to Talodi, Kings End Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex.
Bamford, W., to Bridgecroft, Kent Road, Harrogate.
Rothwell, J. E., to 153 Sewall Avenue, Brookline, Mass. 47, U.S.A.

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).
See also corrections in Notices to Members in this issue.—Hon. Editor.

The Bird Market.

Members' Rates: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Selected aviary-moulted British birds: Goldfinches, Bullfinches, Chaffinches, Buntings, etc., cocks and hens.—Percy Carr, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon.

FOR SALE: Young Blue-bred Budgerigars, beautiful colour, 50s. pair; also young Yellows, from yellow and blue-bred parents, 50s. pair. All outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Mackness, 22 Cyprus Road, Finchley, N. 3. London.

FOR SALE: Weavers: Pairs Taha and Red-billed, also hen Grenadier; in outdoor aviary since last July—50s. lot or nearest offer. WANTED: Cock Red-rump Parrakeet and hen Long-tailed Grassfinch.—Boosey, The Cedars, Bromley Common, Kent.

FOR SALE: Greene's *Parrots in Captivity*, 3 vols., 50s. Seth Smith's *Parrakeets*, 45s. Both in splendid condition.—Goodwin, 185 Old Kent Road, London.

WANTED: 2 hen Dominican (Pope) Cardinals, for outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Read, Church Croft, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock Cuban Finch, hen Violet-eared Waxbill, and cock Violet Tanager; also complete set BIRD NOTES.—Sydney Porter, Selwyn House, Old Normanton, Derby.

FOR SALE: Avicultural, etc., Books, all in new condition:

Newton's "Dictionary of Birds."
* Mivart's "Monograph of Loriidiæ."
* Dresser's "Monograph of Meropidæ."
"Ornithological Miscellany" (3 large vols.)
"Cage Birds" (1 bound volume).
"British Birds and their Nests" (plates by G. Rankin).
* Seth Smith's "Parrakeets."
Greene's "Parrots in Captivity" (3 vols.)
Butler's "Foreign Bird Keeping" (2 vols.)
Page's "Aviaries and Aviary Life."
Beebe's "Two Bird Lovers in Mexico."
Notes on the Birds of Kent.
* Butler's "Foreign Finches in Captivity."
* Sclater's "Monograph of the Calliste."
Cornish's "Naturalist on the Thames."
Lowe's "A Naturalist on Desert Islands."
Watson's "Ornithology in Relation to Agriculture and Horticulture."

BIRD NOTES, bound as new. Vols. 1—8 old series; Vols. 1 and 2 new series; also Vols. 6, 7 and 8 old series, and Vols. 1 and 2 new series; also loose parts for 1912.

"Avicultural Magazine." 17 vols.. old and new series. Those marked with an asterick have exquisite coloured plates; others contain many fine coloured figures of birds.—Mrs. K. L. Miller, 4 Cardinal Mansions, London. S.W., 1.

WANTED: Bird Notes complete from 1904 to 1907 inclusive.—Miss Maxwell Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough, Yorks.

FOR SALE: Several Bird books, best authors, for immediate disposal, cheap. Also Bird Notes (bound) for 1912, 1914 and 1919, 12s. 6d. each. —Rectory, Nash, Stony Stratford.

FOR SALE: About 400 superficial yards of ½in. Wire Netting, 20 gauge. Pre-war quality, in lengths of from 30 to 50 feet. Breadth 3ft. 6in., 4ft. and 6ft. One shilling per yard. Sample sent on application to Major R. A. Dyott, Freeford, Lichfield, Staffs.

De VON & Co.,

127 King's Cross Road, London.

Handsome Hybrid Amhurst, 40s.
Gorgetted Jay-Thrush, Rare, 45s.
Military Starling, 25s.
Handsome Yellow-wing Sugar-birds. 40s. each.
Violet Tanagers, 20s. each.
Pekin Nightingales, 20s. pair.
American Black-headed Siskins, 15s. each.
Parrot Amazon, Talking, £5.
Parrot Amazon, Comm. to talk, £4.
Parrot Amazon, Young, £3.
Parrot, African Grey, £4.
Cockatoo, White, £3.
Cockatoo, Roseate, 40s.
Budgerigars, 14s. pair.
Angolian Singingfinch. 12s. 6d.
Whydahs, 8s. pair.
Orangecheek Waxbills, 10s. pair.
Silverbills, 10s. pair.
Weavers, 8s. pair.
Combassous, 6s. pair.
Saffron Finches, 8s. 6d. pair.
Cutthroats, 8s. 6d. pair.
Cordon Bleus, 8s. 6d. pair.
Waxbills, 7s. 6d. pair.
Cock Siskins, 7s. 6d. each.
1 doz. Mixed Foreign Finches for 30s.

Aquarium Requisites, Reptiles, Tortoises, etc.
Carriage extra.

De VON & Co.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: The Editor regrets the late appearance of this issue, and being compelled to compile most of it from private letters, an earlier issue has been impossible. He hopes to be able to put July issue through by the 20th of that month, but that depends to some extent on the way members assist him by sending in copy—being away from his books most of this month he has been compelled to hold over the continuation of his notes on Mrs. Burgess' birds till next issue.

Members' Meetings: We hope to hold one of these in the near future, date and particulars of which will be given in next issue. Till re-organisation is more complete the meeting place will be the London Zoo—perhaps those able to attend such a social gathering will notify us as to most suitable date, so that many, besides those residing in London and its suburbs, might be present.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

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Mr. W. T. Page's Testimonial Fund.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

The following additional donations have come to hand, which I have forwarded to Mr. Page and have received his acknowledgement.

W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

	£	s.	d.
Mortimer, Mrs.	2	2	0
Rattigan, Capt. G. E.	1	0	0

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Changes and Corrections of Address.

W. R. Temple, to The Lawn, Datchet, Bucks.

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New Members Elected.

The Marchioness of Bath, Longleat, Warminster.
Kenneth S. Mackay, Imber Cross, Thames Ditton, Surrey.
A. H. Barnes, 34 Gledstanes Road, Baron's Court, London, W.

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

See also corrections in Notices to Members, May issue, green page 25.

The Bird Market.

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FOR SALE: Several Bird books, best authors, for immediate disposal, cheap. Also Bird Notes (bound) for 1912, 1914 and 1919, 12s. 6d. each. —Rectory, Nash, Stony Stratford.

FOR SALE: Young Blue-bred Budgerigars, beautiful colour, 50s. pair; also young Yellows, from yellow and blue-bred parents, 50s. pair. All outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Mackness, 22 Cyprus Road, Finchley, N. 3. London.

WANTED: Bird Notes complete for 1906.—Miss Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough, Yorks.

FOR SALE: Large outdoor aviary; no reasonable offer refused. Also the following acclimatised birds: 4 Red-beaked Weavers, 2 Goldfinches, [illegible] Java Sparrows, 1 Dove, 2 Zebra Finches, 1 Yellow Weaver and 4 Budgerigars, £8 lot.—W. Yarworth Jones, Villa d'Arno, Kingston-on-Thames.

FOR SALE: Owing to removal offers are invited for: 12 breeding Budgerigars, 3 Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 2 hens and 1 cock Californian Quail, 2 hens and 1 cock Cordon Bleus (breeding), all wintered out of doors. Also several years of Bird Notes.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

ADVERTIZER would be glad of any infertile eggs members may get in their aviaries, for which they have no use.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED to rent, or purchase, modern detached Bungalow-type house, 10 rooms, on South Coast; sea views essential. Or one furnished for six months, Guernsey or French coast.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore, Stourbridge.

FOR SALE: Avicultural, etc., Books, all in new condition:

Newton's "Dictionary of Birds."
"Ornithological Miscellany" (3 large vols.)—very fine coloured plates.
"Cage Birds" (1 bound volume).
"British Birds and their Nests" (plates by G. Rankin)—exquisite coloured plates.
Beebe's "Two Bird Lovers in Mexico."
Notes on the Birds of Kent.
Cornish's "Naturalist on the Thames."
Lowe's "A Naturalist on Desert Islands."
Watson's "Ornithology in Relation to Agriculture and Horticulture."
Bird Notes, bound as new. Vols. 1—8 old series; Vols. 1 and 2 new series; also Vols. 6, 7 and 8 old series, and Vols. 1 and 2 new series; also loose parts for 1912, containing many fine coloured figures of birds. —Mrs. K. L. Miller, 4 Cardinal Mansions, London, S.W., 1.

JULY, 1921.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: Copy is still needed to prevent late issue, such articles as description of aviaries and the birds they contain. also of the season's doings, etc.

We repeat what we have said elsewhere, viz: that aviculture may be said to consist of numberless details; therefore, detailed articles are of great practical utility, and to further the progress of aviculture a larger number of our members certainly should give their experiences.

So as to include as little as possible from his own pen the Hon. Editor has held up recent issues, hence their late appearance. He earnestly presses the above and requests members to send in copy. His desire is that each issue should contain something to interest every section of our membership whatever class of birds they may keep. This can only be accomplished by the regular co-operation of all.

Subscriptions: It is of great importance that all arrears should now be promptly paid up. Those in arrears have received postal notification of same, and, we trust, this reminder will suffice.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

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Post Mortem Reports.

Orange-flanked Parrakeet: Mrs. Sproston, Nantwich.—Cause of death acute nephritis.

Melba Finch (♂): Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham.—Cause of death congestion of lungs. Secondary to injuries to head.

Black-cheeked Waxbill and Long-tailed Grassfinch: E. Boosey, Bromley Common.—In both cases enteritis was the cause of death.

Blue-winged Grass Parrakeet: The Marquis of Tavistock, Havant.—Cause of death ruptured auricle. There is some history of sunstroke, but not much is known as to any connection between the two.

Yellow Budgerigar: Miss Foster, Torquay.—Cause of death congestion of lungs.

N. S. LUCAS, M.B., F.Z.S.
Hon. Pathologist.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The Hon. Treasurer will thankfully acknowledge the smallest donation.

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

See also corrections in Notices to Members, May issue, green page 25.

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Pair Rosella Parrakeets, from outdoor aviary, £4.—Hawkins, Belvedere, Streetly Lane, Sutton Coldfield.

BIRD NOTES, 1909-15, bound, 10s. per vol.; 1916-20, unbound, 6s. per vol.—Rev. G. H. Raynor, Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex.

FOR SALE: Blue Beverens, Champion Pedigree Strain, nearly four months old, Bucks 10s., Does 12s. 6d.; Flemish Giants, May litter from monster parents, numerous champions in pedigree. All the above are really fine animals and only want seeing. Approval willingly. Also Yorks. and Norwich Canaries (finest strains); Budgerigars, all colours, guaranteed unrelated pairs; Zebra Finches; Red-headed Finches, etc. Please state wants.—Rattigan, Fluder, Kingskerswell, South Devon.

FOR SALE: Tiny rare Frizzle Bantams; owner and breeder of Dairy Winners has a few for disposal. 1921 bred. Pure white curled feathers. Unequalled for beauty. Would exchange one pair for foreign birds. Tame *talking* parrakeets wanted.—Stewart, Glenhurst, Crosspaths, Radlett.

FOR SALE: Ornithological Books:
Ornithology in relation to Agriculture and Horticulture.
Favourite Foreign Birds (Greene).
British Birds and their Nests (Exquisite coloured plates by Rankin).
Geographical Distribution of Birds (Sclater).
The Waxbill and Grey Parrot (Fillmer).
Some Indian Friends and Acquaintances (Cunningham).
A Naturalist on the Thames (Cornish).
Humming Birds. 2 Vols.

H. R. Young, 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W., 16.
Zebra Finches.

Ornithological Miscellany (Exquisite coloured plates, mostly by Kuelemanns), 3 Vols.
Canaries and Cage Birds (Cassell and Co.)
Bird Notes, First Series Vols. 6, 7, 8, Series II. Vols. 1 and 2.
Bird Notes, 27 loose numbers.
Avicultural Magazine, 8 loose numbers.
Proceedings Zoological Society. 2 parts.—
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, 4 Cardinal Mansions, London, S.W., 1.

De VON & Co.

Amazon Parrots from 40s.
Cockatoo, 25s.
Cactus Conures, 15s.
Half Moon Parrakeets, 15s.
Casiques, 40s.
Sulphrey Tyrants, 20s.
White-Peafowl, £15 per pair.
Senegal Doves, 15s. per pair.
Common Doves, 7s. 6d. each
Toucanettes, 50s.
Golden-shouldered Hangnest, £3.
Budgerigars, Green, 14s. pair.
Budgerigars, Yellow, 15s. pair.
American Robin, 45s.
Senegal Birds, 30s. per doz.
Bronze-wing Mannikins, 8s. 6d. pair.
Black-headed Mannikins, 7s. 6d. pair.
Combassous, 6s. 6d. pair.
Steelfinch, 8s. 6d. each.
Cutthroats, 8s. 6d. pair.
Grey Singing-finch, 5s. 6d. each.
African Waxbills, 6s. pair.
Silverbills, 7s. 6d. pair.
Tanagers, Violet, 20s. each.
Tanagers, Golden-shouldered, 25s. each.

Tanagers, Pileated. 30s. each.
Tanagers, Arch-Bishop, 30s. each.
Aeriel Toucan. £6.
Spotted Bill Toucanette, 50s.
Quaker Parrot, 10s.
Senegal, Pie, 40s.
Purple Jay, £5.
American Bitterne, 50s.
American Heron, 50s.
American Night Heron, 50s.
Military Starlings, 12s. 6d.
Silkey Cowbirds, 8s. 6d.
Baya Cowbirds, 7s. 6d.
Redheaded Marsh Bird, 20s.
Redheaded Marsh Bird, young. 15s.
American Mocking Bird. £3.
Field Saffron, 6s.
Cape Canary, 6s.
Black Tanager, 12s. 6d.
Scarlet Tanagers, £3.
Short Wing Tyrant. 20s.
Blue-headed Tanager, £5 pair.
Chocolate Tyrant, £3 each.
Crested Cardinals, 10s.
American Black-headed Siskin, 8s. 6d.

Carriage extra.

Stamp for List.

Telegraphic Address: "OISEAUX, London." Museum 767

De VON & Co.,

127 King's Cross Road, London.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in Bird Notes, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
• Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
• Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Green-billed Toucan
Group of Spermophila
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher
* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure

J. H. Henstock, Avian Press,
ASHBOURNE.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

POST MORTEM REPORTS: Owing to Dr. Lucas being on holiday none are to hand this month, but any held over will appear in our next issue.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The smallest donation will be gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer.

	£	s.	d.
Wellington, Duchess of	0	10	0

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Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss Hope Vere, Westcliffe, North Berwick.
By the Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke.
Cyril Best, Pye Bridge, Alfreton, Derbyshire.
By J. H. Henstock.

◆

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

See also corrections in Notices to Members, May issue, green page 25.

H. R. YOUNG, 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W., 16.
Zebra Finches.

◆

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

WANTED: Bird Notes for 1906.—Miss Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough. Yorks.

FOR SALE: Pairs Kestrels 25s.. Upland Geese £5, Chili Wigeon 50s., Black-winged Peafowl £5, Horned Guinea-fowl 40s., Rufous Tinamous £5, Hybrid Necklace Doves 20s., Cuba Finches 30s.. Yellow Budgerigars 20s.. Blue-bred Green Budgerigars 30s., European Eagle Owl, hen, very fine £6, Senegal Black Magpie, cock, £4. Blue Jay £4, Hybrid Goldfinch × Sikhim Siskin 30s.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Cocks, Hardwick's Fruitsucker, Gold-fronted Fruitsucker, White-cheeked Bulbul, 2 Giant Long-tailed Whydahs. All acclimatised, healthy and in good plumge. What offers for lot, or singly.—Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke.

WANTED: Avicultural Magazine, 1st Series Vols. 1 to 5 inclusive; Bird Notes of 1902 and 1907; hen Many-coloured Parrakeet, or exchange a cock for a hen; cock Green Cardinal; pair Diamond Doves; and pair Bronze-winged Pigeons. FOR SALE: Pairs Sky-blue Budgerigars, £20; Black-cheeked Lovebirds £5; Red-rumps £5; hen Green Cardinals £1 each; Cherry Finch 50s.; pair Bicheno's Finches £5; Masked Grassfinches £4.—A. Decoux, Gery, Aixe, Haute-Vienne. France.

FOR SALE: 1 pair breeding Jendaja Parrakeets £4; 3 Golden-headed Conures £2 each; 2 hybrid Patagonian Conures, or species?, £2 each.—Mrs. Burgess, 56 St. John's Road, Clifton, Bristol.

FOR SALE: Bird Notes, 1909-14, bound, 10s. per vol., or 50s. lot.—Rev. G. H. Raynor, Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex.

FOR SALE: Ornithological Books:

Ornithology in relation to Agriculture and Horticulture.
Favourite Foreign Birds (Greene).
British Birds and their Nests (Exquisite coloured plates by Rankin).
Geographical Distribution of Birds (Sclater).
The Waxbill and Grey Parrot (Fillmer).
Some Indian Friends and Acquaintances (Cunningham).
A Naturalist on the Thames (Cornish).
Humming Birds. 2 Vols.
Ornithological Miscellany (Exquisite coloured plates, mostly by Kuelemanns), 3 Vols.
Canaries and Cage Birds (Cassell and Co.)
Bird Notes, First Series Vols. 6, 7, 8, Series II. Vols. 1 and 2.
Bird Notes, 27 loose numbers.
Avicultural Magazine, 8 loose numbers.
Proceedings Zoological Society. 2 parts.—
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, 4 Cardinal Mansions, London, S.W., 1.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.—The Hon. Treasurer writes that, in spite of more than one reminder concerning same, some are still unpaid—of course, owing to the exceptional times, there are some cases of hardship, and a *private* line to the Secretary will save them being dunned or their names being removed from the Club Roll as defaulters. We would remind members that, excepting some £20 for Working Expenses and Medals, the whole of the Club's income, consisting solely of members' subscriptions, is spent on the Club Journal BIRD NOTES, and does not cover the cost of same—*all officials give their services gratuitously*—and it must be obvious to all who think about the matter at all that, unless the subscriptions (due in advance January 1st, it is now September!) are regularly paid the Club cannot pay its way. With this explanation we request that either a remittance be sent at once, or a letter stating their intentions concerning same.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*

Mr. W. T. Page's Testimonial Fund.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Harper, E. W.	2	0	0

W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Hebb, T.	0	10	0

New Members Elected.

Miss Hope Vere, Westcliffe, North Berwick.
Cyril Best, Pye Bridge, Alfreton, Derbyshire.

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

See also corrections in Notices to Members, May issue, green page 25.

ADD TO REGISTER—

H R. YOUNG, 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W., 16.
Zebra Finches.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

MEMBERS' RATES: Halfpenny per word; minimum sixpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements for respective issues should be sent to the Hon. Ed. not later than the 8th of each month.

FOR SALE: From outdoor aviaries, 1 pair Brotogerys (White-wing and All-Green, mated), and 1 pair Pope Cardinals. What offers?—Mrs. Read, Church Croft, Thames Ditton.

FOR SALE: Hen Black-backed Tanager £3, or would buy cock; cock Common Quail 7s. 6d.; young Triangular-spotted Pigeons 25s. each. WANTED: Hen Yellow-winged Sugarbird, cock Melba Finch, and true, unrelated pair of acclimatised Red-collared Lorikeets.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: Aviary-bred Rosella Parrakeets, strong healthy birds, 40s each; Swainson's Lorikeet £4; Meyer's Parrot £4; Blossom-headed Parrakeet 50s.; all in show condition and acclimatised birds.—T. Hebb, The Downs, Luton, Beds.

WANTED: Bird Notes for 1906.—Miss Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough. Yorks.

FOR SALE: Ornithological Books:
Ornithology in relation to Agriculture and Horticulture.
Favourite Foreign Birds (Greene).
British Birds and their Nests (Exquisite coloured plates by Rankin).
Geographical Distribution of Birds (Sclater).
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Bird Notes, First Series Vols. 6, 7, 8, Series II. Vols. 1 and 2.
Bird Notes, 27 loose numbers.
Proceedings Zoological Society. 2 parts.—
Avicultural Magazine, 8 loose numbers.
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, 4 Cardinal Mansions, London, S.W., 1.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pairs of Red-vented Bulbuls 63s.; Jungle Mynahs (*A. fuscus*) 84s.; and Yellow-winged Sugarbirds 5 guineas; Aurita Doves 42s.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen Black Tanager (the hen is tan-colour) and Blossom-headed Parrakeet—Miss V. Macdonald, F.Z.S., Ipley Manor, Marchwood, Hants.

FOR SALE: Pair Triangular-Spotted Pigeons, 50s., or would exchange for 1921 Green Cardinal hen. Also Blossom-headed Parrakeet, 50s., or would exchange the three birds for a guaranteed cock Peach-faced Lovebird. Acclimatised cock Yellow-winged Sugarbird, 40s.—L. Pullar, Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.

De VON & Co

Stamp for price list of Birds, Fish, Animals, Reptiles, etc., African Pies, Azure Jay, Sulphury Flycatchers, Mocking Birds, Red-headed Troupials, Toucanettes, Baya Cowbirds, Cardinals, Tanagers, Yellow-wing Troupials, etc

De VON & Co.,
127 King's Cross Road, London.

OCTOBER 1921.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

CONSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS: M. Le Souef is on the way with a large consignment (principally Australian species) of birds as under:

Wedge-tail Eagles (*Uroaetus audax*).
White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliatus leucogaster*).
Crowned Pigeons (*Goura coronata*).
Nicobar Pigeons (*Caloenas nicobarica*).
Large-billed Bronze-wing Pigeon (New Guinea).
Lilac-crowned, and Lilac-bellied Fruit-Pigeons.
Nutmeg Pigeon (*Myristicivora bicolor*).
Little Green Pigeon (*Chaleophaps chryoschlora*), New Guinea type.
Bar-shouldered Dove (*Geopelia humeralis*).
Peaceful Doves (*G. placida*).
Magnificent Birds of Paradise (*Diphyllodes magnifica*).
Six-plumed Birds of Paradise (*Parotia sexpennis*).
Count Raggi's Birds of Paradise (*P. raggiana*).
Manucode.
Yellow-bellied Grackles (*Mino dumonti*).
Glossy Starlings (*Aplonis metallica*).
Pheasant Coucals (*Polaphilus phasianus*).
Laughing Kingfishers (*Dacelo gigas*).
Australian Cranes (*Antigone australasiana*).
Manchurian Cranes (*Grus japonensis*).
White Cranes (*G. leucogranus*).
Emus (*Dromaeus novae-hollandiae*).
Cassowary (*Casuarius galeatus*).
Purple-capped Lories (*Lorius domicella*).
Cockateels (*Callopsittacus novae-hollandiae*).
Pennant's Parrakeets (*Platycercus pennanti*).
Sooty Parrakeets (*P. venusta*).
Rosella Parrakeets (*P. eximius*).
King Parrakeets (*Aprosmictus scapulatus*).
Crimson-wing Parrakeets (*Ptistes erythropterus*).
Swift Lorikeets (*Lathamus discolor*).
Golden-shouldered Parrakeets (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*).
Gaug-gaug Cockatoos (*Callocephalon galeatum*).
Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*Cacatua gymnops*).
Black Swans (*Chenopsis atraca*).
Diamond Finches (*Steganopleura guttata*).
Chestnut-breasted Finches (*Munia castaneithorax*).

The above will be at the Zoo, on deposit, till sold.

Private Consignment of Indian Birds: This consignment is due to arrive about November 6th. The following birds were shipped:

Blossom-headed Parrakeets.
Vernal Hanging Parrakeets.
Malaccan Hanging Parrakeets.
Shamahs—young hand-reared birds.
African Maroon Waxbills.
Green Avadavats.
Pond Herons.
White Egrets.
Chinese Green-winged Doves.

The above can be seen at Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey; and any inquiries concerning same should be addressed to Mr. W. T. Page at that address.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

◆

Mr. W. T. Page's Testimonial Fund.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

	£	s.	d.
H. L. Sich	5	0	0

W. A. BAINBRIDGE.

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

The Rev. R. Home McCall, Thorne Rectory, Yeovil.
By the Hon. Editor.

◆

Changes and Corrections of Address.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Harcourt, P.C., to Mincham Park, Oxford.
R. H. Carr, to Norman House, Uppingham Road, Bushby, Nr. Leicester.
Dr. E. Hopkinson, M.A., F.Z.S., etc., to Gambia, Bathurst, West Africa.
Guy Falkner, to Boodles Club, St. James's Street, London, W. 1.
R. E. Simpson, to 1, Highthorne Grove, Armley, Leeds.
Rev. G. Raynor, M.A., to The Lilacs, Brampton, Huntingdon.

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

ADD TO REGISTER—

The HON. MRS. G. BOURKE, 75, Gloucester Place, London, W.
Blue Budgerigars.

H R. YOUNG, 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W., 16.
Zebra Finches.

◆

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

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WANTED: Bird Notes for 1906.—Miss Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough. Yorks.

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Bird Notes, 27 loose numbers.
Proceedings Zoological Society. 2 parts.—
Avicultural Magazine, 8 loose numbers.
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, 4 Cardinal Mansions, London, S.W., 1.

FOR SALE: Hen Black Tanager 25s.; cock Sayaca Tanager 40s.; pair Euops Parrakeets £3 10s.; pair Lavender Finches 15s. 6d.; pair Cordon Bleus 10s. 6d.; pair Violet-ears £3; pair breeding Cockateels 40s. All the above are from out-door aviary and in perfect health and plumage.—Sydney Porter, Selwyn House, Old Normanton, Derby.

FOR SALE: Pairs—guaranteed unrelated Zebra Finches 15s.; Red-headed × Cutthroat Hybrids, curious and rare, believed fertile, 20s.; Californian Quail, 50s.; Blue-bred Budgerigars, 50s. Each—Cardinals, Red-crested, 10s. 6d.; Yellow-bills, 25s.; Green, 50s.; Red-headed Finches, 6s.; Saffron Finches, 7s. 6d.; all aviary bred, adult plumage, faultless condition. Also two really fine March-hatched White Leghorn Cockerels, *Daily Mail* Experimental Farm, 10s. 6d. each; six Pullets, same sitting, laid 158 September, 115 to 22nd October.—Rattigan, Kingskerswell, S. Devon.

WANTED: First series of BIRD NOTES.—S. Porter, Selwyn House, Old Normanton, Derby.

SEEDS AND GRITS OF QUALITY.

We provide all kinds of Seeds for Cage Birds and for Birds in Aviaries, or can compound any Mixture to formulæ. Also Food for the Parrot Tribe, single variety or blended to order.

The GOLD MEDAL "CORONATION" GRIT has no superior, and has been in use over half a century. It is graded in size to suit from the smallest Finch to that required for the Macaw. Cuttlefish Bone, Millet Sprays, Pure Ox Meat Meal, free from fat (taking the place of Insect Life), Bird Charcoal.

Samples and Prices on request.

J. ALEXANDER DOBBIE & Co.

WAVERLEY WORKS, LEITH, N.B.

Telegrams: "Appliances," Leith.
Est. 1870.
Telephone: No. 358, Leith.

De VON & Co

Stamp for price list of Birds, Fish, Animals, Reptiles, etc.
Azure Jay, Sulphury Flycatchers, Mocking Birds, Toucanettes, Baya Cowbirds, Cardinals, Tanagers; Yellow-naped Lorry, whistles tunes £5; Caseque Troupials, 30s.; White Peafowls. Price Lists.

De VON & Co.,

127 King's Cross Road, London.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mr. S. Williams, who for the past ten years has acted as our Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, is now compelled to relinquish the post of Hon. Sec., as business claims do not now allow him sufficient leisure for the duties; but he will continue to act as Treasurer. Maj. A. E. Snape has consented to act as Hon. Sec. if elected.

Mr. S. M. Townsend, who, from the inception of the club, has acted as Hon. Exhibitional Secretary, finds himself compelled by ill-health to relinquish same.

The matter is before the Council, and a definite notice re the above changes will appear in our next issue.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. M. Bearby, 34 Church Street, West Hartlepool,
By Lt.-Col. H. Legh de Legh.

L. Rice, Hirstmonceux, Sussex,
By the Lady Dunleath.

W. Molyneux. Rua Gen Gurtao, 33, Tonta do Cajú, Rio de Janeiro.
By Maj. A. E. Snape.

New Members Elected.

Lady Bledisloe, Sydney Park, Gloucester.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Miss M. Bousfield, to Hazelmere, New Milton, Hants.
T. T. Barnard, to Duncote Hall, Towcester.
Mrs. D. Dickinson, to The Bridges, Upper Slaughter, Gloucs.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

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FOR SALE: Two 1920 cock Cockateels, 15s. each. Show Cages in perfect condition: Three suitable for small foreign birds and one for Long-tailed Whydah, one large, also cases for same.—Simpson, Highthorne Grove, Armley, Leeds.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised Birds.—rare Saltator, 30s.; rare Brazilian Grosbeak, fine singer, 30s.; pairs: Grey Singingfinches, 12s. 6d., Russ' Weavers 12s. 6d., Red-billed Weavers 7s. 6d., and others. W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Unrelated pairs Zebra Finches, 15s. pair; also Yorkshire Canaries, cocks 17s. 6d. each. All outdoor aviary-bred birds, perfect condition. Would exchange any of above for small finches from outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Chatterton, Talodi, Kings End Avenue, Ruislip.

FOR SALE: Privately Imported Blossom-headed Parrakeets and Chinese Green-winged Doves.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED Bird Notes for 1906.—Miss Jackson, Berry End, Knaresborough. Yorks.

FOR SALE: Ornithological Books:

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WANTED: First series of BIRD NOTES.—S. Porter, Selwyn House, Old Normanton, Derby.

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Samples and Prices on request.

J. ALEXANDER DOBBIE & Co

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Sulphury Flycatchers, Mocking Birds, Cowbirds, Cardinals, Tanagers; Yellow-naped Lorry, Caseque Troupials, 30s.; White Peafowls. Price Lists.

De VON & Co.,

127 King's Cross Road, London.

Telephone: Museum 767.
Telegraph Address: "Oiseaux," London.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: To fill the gaps occasioned by the retirement of the Hon. Business and Exhibitional Secretaries, we suggest that

Maj. A. E. Snåpe be elected as Hon. Business Secretary; and

Mr. S. Williams, F.Z.S., be elected as Exhibition Secretary *pro tem* (i.e. for 1922 only) in the first instance.

COUNCIL: The members due to retire by rotation are Messrs. H. Willford and W. T. Rogers, both of whom are eligible for re-election.

Members may propose other candidates for the above vacancies, in which case the names of candidates, with their proposers and seconders, must reach the Hon. Business Secretary as early as possible, but not later than January 10th.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS. *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them. The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following:

	£	s.	d.
Watson, S.	0	10	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Col. Wand. Falcon Rise, Woolton Hill, Newbury.
By H.G. the Duchess of Wellington.

S. T. Parker, 42, Turner Road, Dereham Road, Norwich.

T. Z. Takano, 67, Shichome Honcho, Yokohama, Japan.
By the Hon. Editor.

New Members Elected.

J. M. Bearby, 34 Church Street, West Hartlepool,
L. Rice, Hirstmonceux, Sussex,
W. Molyneux, Rua Gen Gurjao, 33, Ponta so Cajú, Rio ie Janeiro.

Register of Club Breeders.

(*vide* Jan. issue, green pages, 2—3).

PLUS

MRS. A. CHATTERTON, Talodi, King's Head Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex.
Zebra Finches.

The Bird Market.

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⁂

FOR SALE: Specifer Peacock and two White Peahens, 1921 birds, £10 10s. lot. Pair unrelated Upland Geese £7 7s.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Noted Duck Oven, oil or gas, new condition, cost 80s., not been used, cash offers.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

WANTED: First Series of *Bird Notes*.—S. Porter, Selwyn House, Normanton, Derby.

SEEDS AND GRITS OF QUALITY

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Birds, Fish, Animals, Reptiles, etc.

Sulphury Flycatchers, Mocking Birds, Cowbirds, Cardinals, Tanagers; Yellow-naped Lory, Casique Troupials, White Peafowls. Handsome Orange Bishops in full colour, 8s. 6d.; pair finger-tame Java Cockatoos, £4; thousands of Birds in Stock. Price Lists.

De VON & Co.,

127 King's Cross Road, London.

Telephone: Museum 767.

Telegraph Address: "Oiseaux," London.

DE VON & CO.,
127. KING'S CROSS ROAD. LONDON. W.C.1.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS. "OISEAUX, LONDON."
DIRECT IMPORTERS OF BIRDS, ANIMALS. FISH, REPTILES, &c., &c.
Trade Supplied.
Write for Weekly Price Lists.

STOCK ONCE SOLD CANNOT BE TAKEN BACK.
ALL GOODS SENT AT BUYERS RISK.
LIVE STOCK ARRIVING NOT AS REPRESENTED MUST BE RETURNED THE SAME DAY.

PRICE LIST

Avadavates.......	7/- pair	Parrot Black Vasa Rare	~~XXX~~ £ 8.
Red Tigerfinches singing	5/- each	" " " African Grey	£ 6.
Budgerigars Green	14/- pair	" " " Amazon Talking....	£ 5.
" " " " " " Yellow	15/- " "	" " " " " " Commence to talk	£ 4.
Blackheaded Siskins ..	20/- each	" " " " " " Young....	£ 3.
Saffron-finches Cocks	7/- each	" " " Rock	50/-
" " " " " " " " Hens	6/- " "	" " " Amazon Yellow-front tame	£ 4.
Pekin Nightingales Cocks	25/- "	Cockatoo Lemon Crest..	70/-
" " " " " " " " " Hens	10/- each	Rosella..................	45/-
Doves Collared....	7/6 pair	Tame Falcon Yellow-footed	£ 2.
" " " Senegal.......	12/6 pair	Doves African Ring..	10/- pai

Arrivals expected on Feb 20th Cordon Bleus,. Waxbills
Ribbon-finches, Weavers, Bishops Lavender-finches
Green Avadavates Combassous Bronzewings Fire-finches etc.
PLEASE Apply for PRICES

Dunlin.........	10/- pair	Roller Canary Hens......	10/- eac
Sea Gulls Common	5/- each	Seagulls Blackheaded....	5/- each

Land Tortoises in a few Days		Working Ferrets........	10/- eac
Very small Monkeys	£ 3.10 each	Tame Mice ...1/- each ..8/- doz.	
Large Rhesus Monkey [illegible]	£ 4	Indian Mongoose Rat Exterminator	£ 4
Marmozets...........	£ 2.	Ant-eater very tame	£ 5.
Tortoiseshell Tom Rabbit Dutch prize Strain			10/-

Goldfish..4/- .12/-, 9/- & 6/- doz		Frogs......5d each	4/- doz.
" " " " Large ....18/- 24/- & 30/- doz		Snails...........	8d doz
American Catfish......	9d each	Water-Lillies.........	1/- eac
Vallisneria Spiralis Large	2d root	Newts................	2d each
" " " " " " Small..	1/- doz	Beetles............	2d each
Anacharis..........	1/- Bdle	Milfoil...............	1/- bdls

Mealworms...8d oz or 8/- lb for not less than 1 lb..

Echaudes a Titbit for all Birds 3d each Pigeon Rings 1921 1d each
Thistle Seed 2d pkt 1/6 doz Daphnein Fish Food.... 1d pkt
Log Nests for Budgerigars 4/- each Nightingale Food .... 3/6 lb..
Coker-nut Husks for Budg Nests 2/6

Travelling Cases & Cushions allowed for if returned in 7 days

CARRIAGE......EXTRA.

P.R.I.C.E. L.I.S.T.

Nightingale Food....	3/6 lb
Lark & Thrush Food..	9d lb
Daphnein Fish Food..	1d pkt
" " " " " " " " " " ..	6/- qrt
Ants Eggs Fish Food	1d pkt
" " " " "	4/- lb
Dried Flies ..3d oz..	3/- lb
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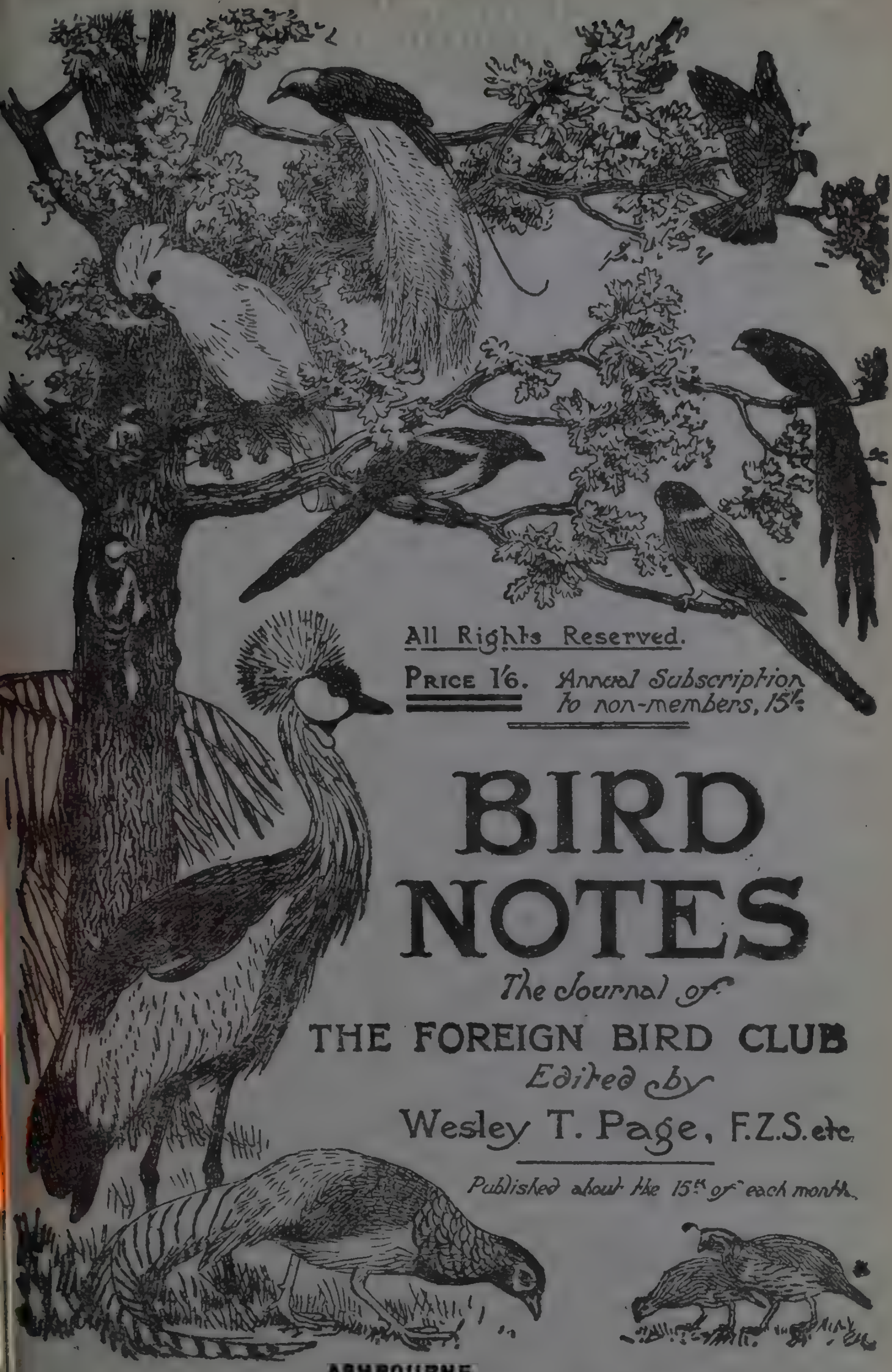

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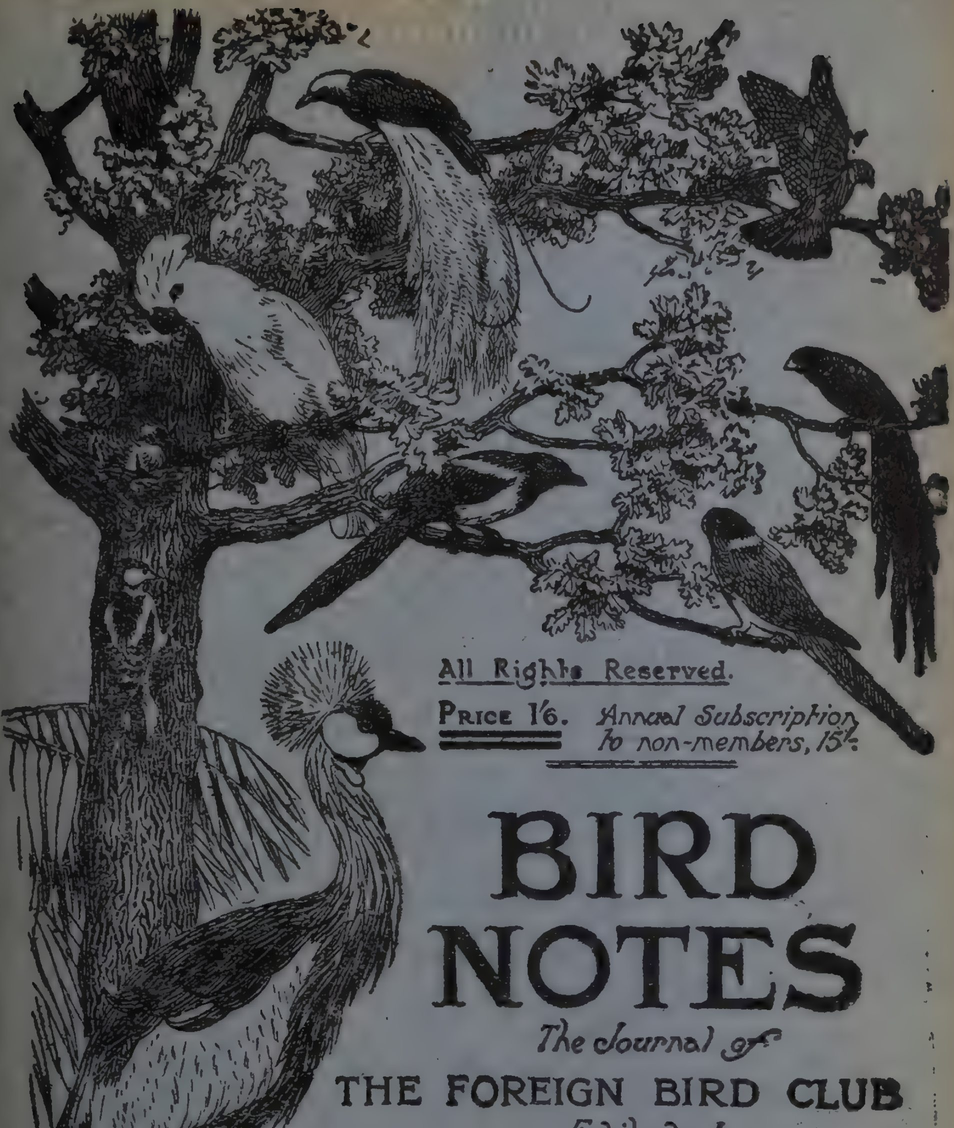

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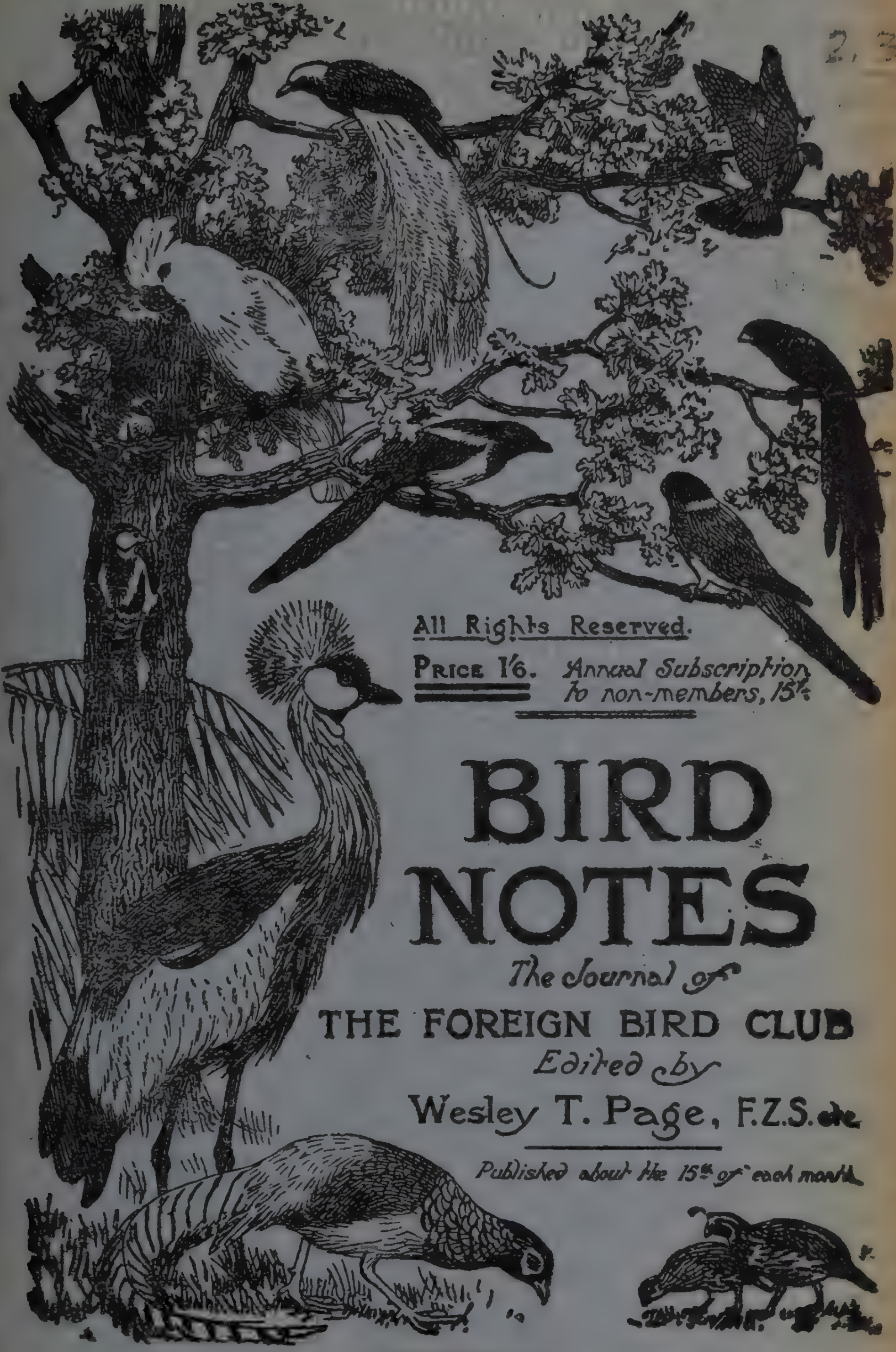

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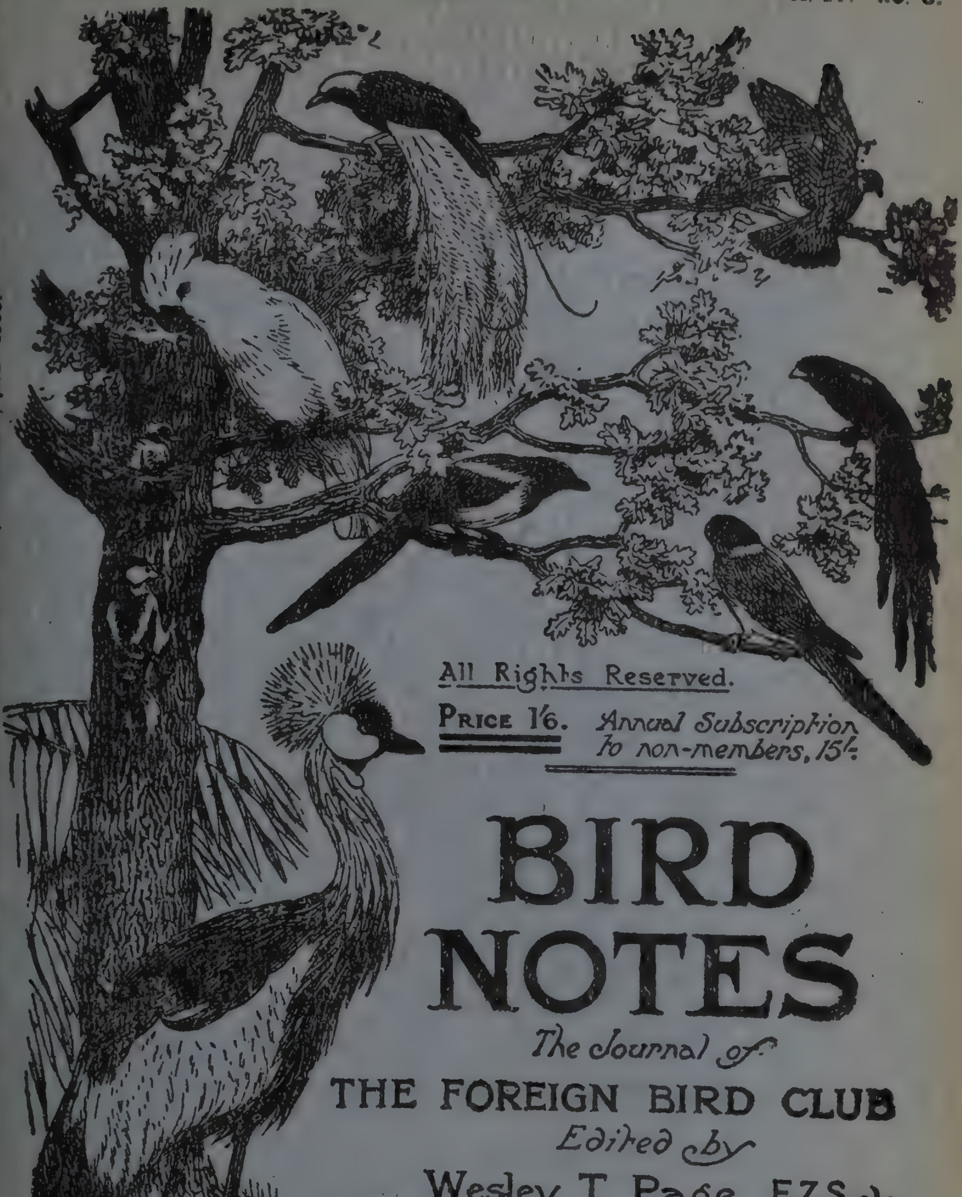

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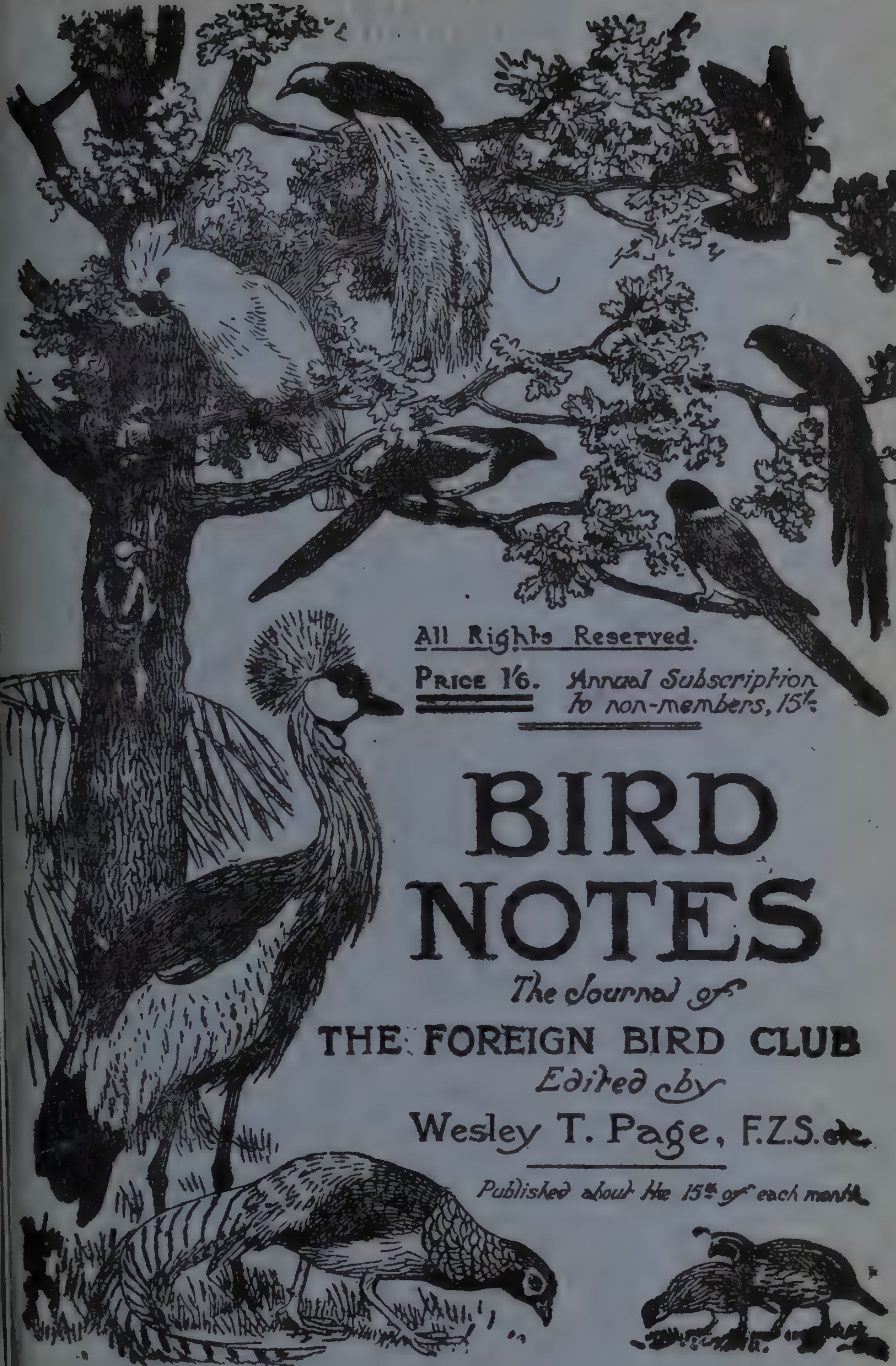

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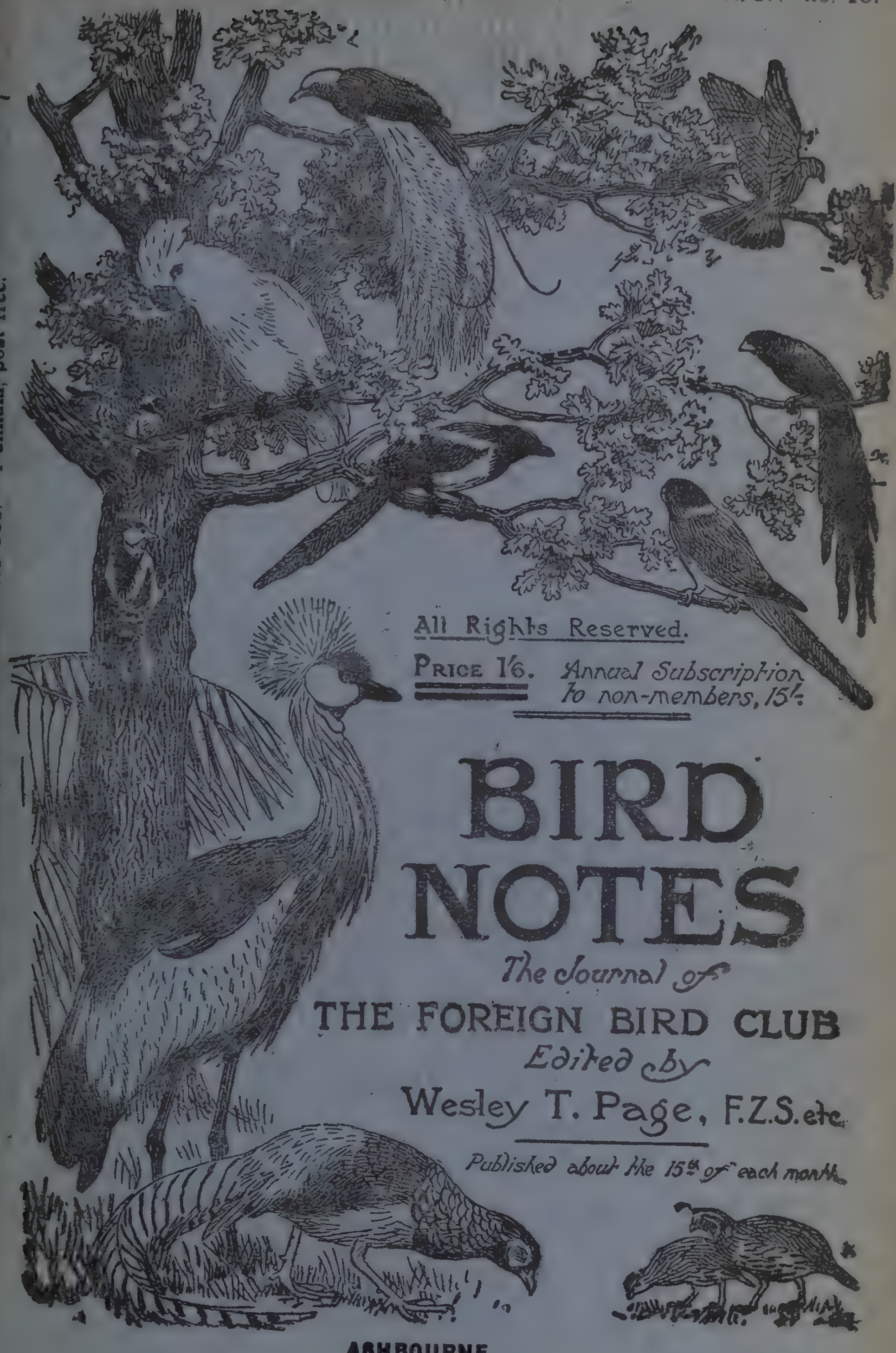

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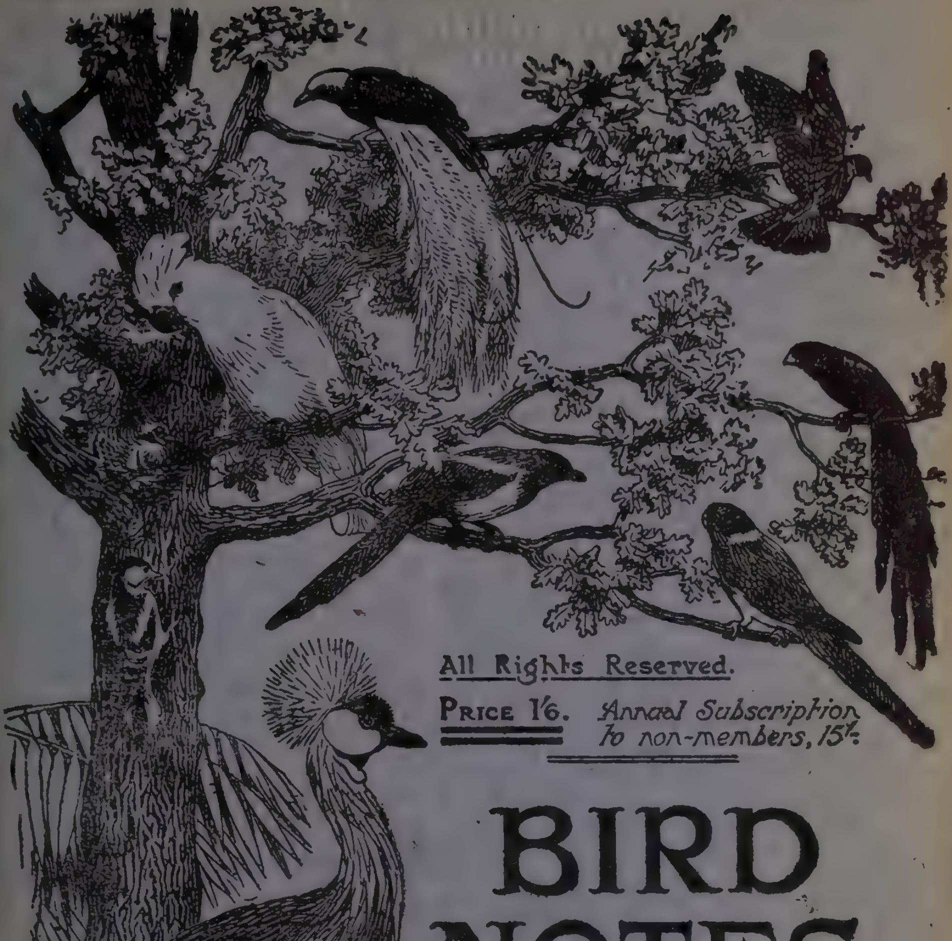

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

Edited by

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc.

Published about the 15th of each month.

ASHBOURNE.
Printed and Published by J. H. Henstock, Avian Press.

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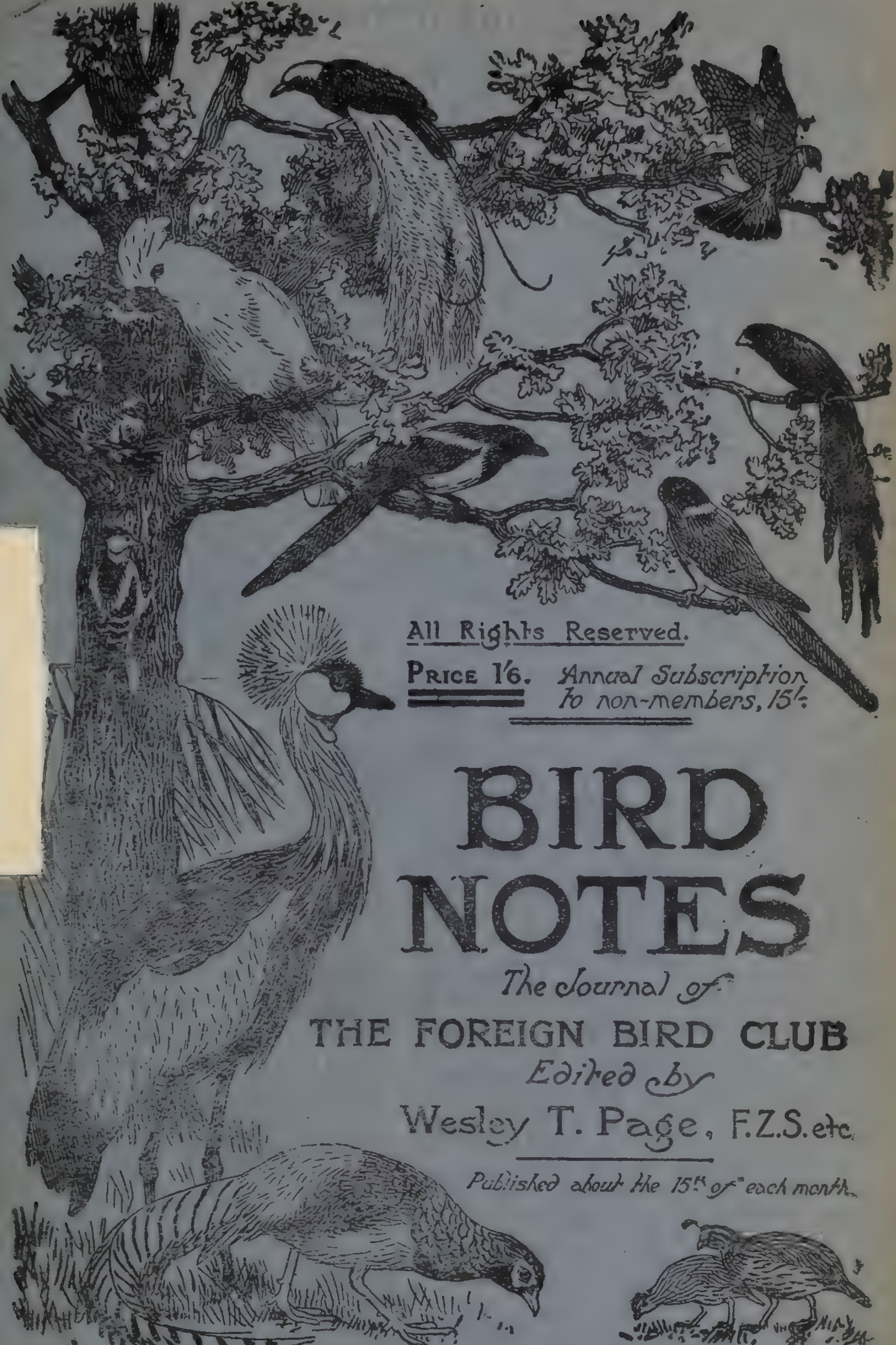

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